Hafa Adai!

SSHS' Manta Ray team advances to JLAB championship. PAGE 2

Spike in COVID cases, other OPM projects hamper DPS, DOC desk audit. PAGE 3

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 48

www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY MARCH 9, 2022 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

2nd Senate try on bonuses

Pentagon to shut down leaking fuel tank in Hawaii

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)— The Defense Department will permanently shut down the Navy's massive fuel tank facility in Hawaii that leaked petroleum into Pearl Harbor's tap water, and will remove all the fuel, the Pentagon said Monday.

Pentagon press secretary

See PENTAGON on Page 4

YOUTH CENTER FACELIFT OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Gualo Rai Youth Center gets a much-needed makeover, thanks to the efforts of staff from the Office of Youth Affairs, in collaboration with the Office of the Governor, Department of Corrections, and the minority bloc of the 22nd House of Representatives. The Tan Siu Lin Foundation donated the paint and paint equipment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and five other Republican senators pre-filed Monday another Senate joint resolution approving Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' request to create a new program and business unit for government retirees' 1,000 bonuses.

» 6 senators pre-file resolution approving Torres' request for retirees' $1,000 bonuses

Senate Joint Resolution 22-09 also approves Torres' request to reprogram $2.6 million from within the Executive Branch for the payment of the retirees' bonuses.

Torres

Hofschneider

The five other senators who co-sponsored the joint resolution are Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan), Vinnie F. Sablan (R-Saipan), Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), Karl King-Nabors (R-Tinian),

See 2ND on Page 4

Over $9K seized from IPI's BOS accounts

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S Marshal Service has seized over $9,000 from Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's Bank of Saipan accounts to satisfy a judgment in favor of an apartment leasing company, Red Coral Corp.

At around 3:15pm yesterday, Bank of Saipan was served the writ of execution issued by the District Court

See OVER on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 5:44pm, March 8, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Additional Dose Vaccinated:	57.4%
Days since last community transmission	2

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,986
Fully Vaccinated:	37,174
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,343
Fully Vaccinated:	5,204
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,145
Additional Dose:	21,432

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	45,542	295	45,837
Recovered	41,211	2,588	43,799
Active	1,409	295	1,704
Deaths	331	3	334

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	10,155	0*	10,155
Recovered	9,691	0*	9,691
Active	434	0*	434
Deaths	30	0*	30

*No update

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

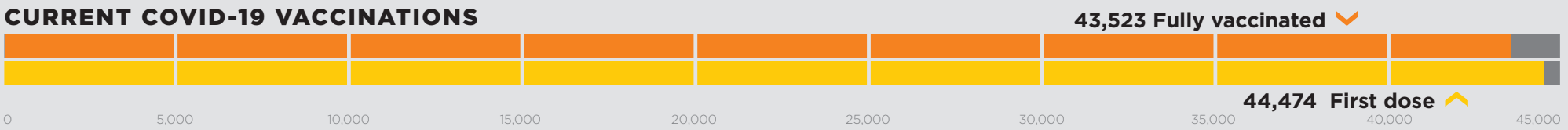
COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

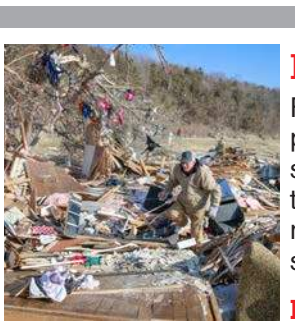


Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE

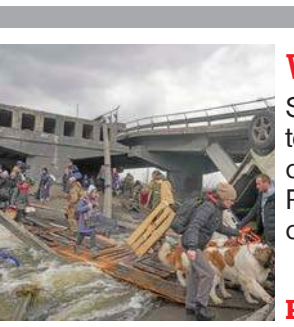
BUSINESS
Gasoline prices are going up, the highest price that American motorists have faced since July 2008.

Page 11



NATION
Four of the seven people killed in storms that tore through Iowa were members of the same family.

Page 12



WORLD
Safe corridors intended to let Ukrainian civilians escape the Russian onslaught could open soon.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

SSHS' Manta Ray team advances to JLAB championship

The JROTC Leadership Academic Bowl Leadership team of the Manta Ray Battalion of Saipan Southern High School has made it to the JLAB championship round.

The battalion's JLAB Leadership team has qualified to compete in the 2022 Army JROTC Leadership Bowl Championship in Washington, D.C., which will be held on the campus of The Catholic University of America on June 19-23, 2022.

Saipan Southern High School's JROTC team earned top scores out of the 1,371 Army JROTC Leadership teams that competed worldwide and they managed to be one of the 40 Army JROTC Leadership teams to advance to the final competition. The cadets from Saipan Southern High School have proven their ability to overcome and succeed despite the many obstacles they faced throughout their preparation.

"Our team worked very hard to study as many questions as possible and will review any questions we got wrong on our quizzes," said cadet 2LT Danielle Formalejo. "We had our doubts as the questions were very randomized and had the idea that the majority of the questions we encountered weren't the ones we reviewed and studied, which might lessen our chance of winning; however, teamwork makes the dream work."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Manta Ray Battalion instructor Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Richard S. Basa, leftmost, poses with the JROTC Leadership Academic Bowl Leadership team, starting from second from left, cadet 2LT Mechaella De Ramos, cadet SFC Matz Catindig, cadet 1SG John Lloyd Tuquero, cadet 2LT Danielle Formalejo, and cadet 1LT Dianna Catigan.

According to the battalion's instructor, Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Richard S. Basa, this is the second time that the JLAB Leadership team has qualified to compete with other schools in Washington, D.C. The first time they competed, out of 40 different teams worldwide, the Saipan Southern High School Manta Ray Battalion won the Esprit de Corps Award for the JROTC Leadership Championship.

Although they had their doubts and obstacles, they were confident and well-prepared for this test. They were tested on their knowledge of financial literacy, current events, leadership values, and leadership skills. This competition was an opportunity for the JROTC cadets to demonstrate their leadership and academic abilities.

Aside from Formalejo, the other cadets who have successfully advanced to Level 3 of the JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl are cadet 2LT Mechaella De Ramos, cadet 1SG John Lloyd Tuquero, cadet SFC Matz Catindig, and cadet 1LT Dianna Catigan.

Once again, congratulations to Saipan Southern High School's JLAB Team for advancing through two intense phases of online competition and managing to reach the final competition! ***(Marie Hembra)***

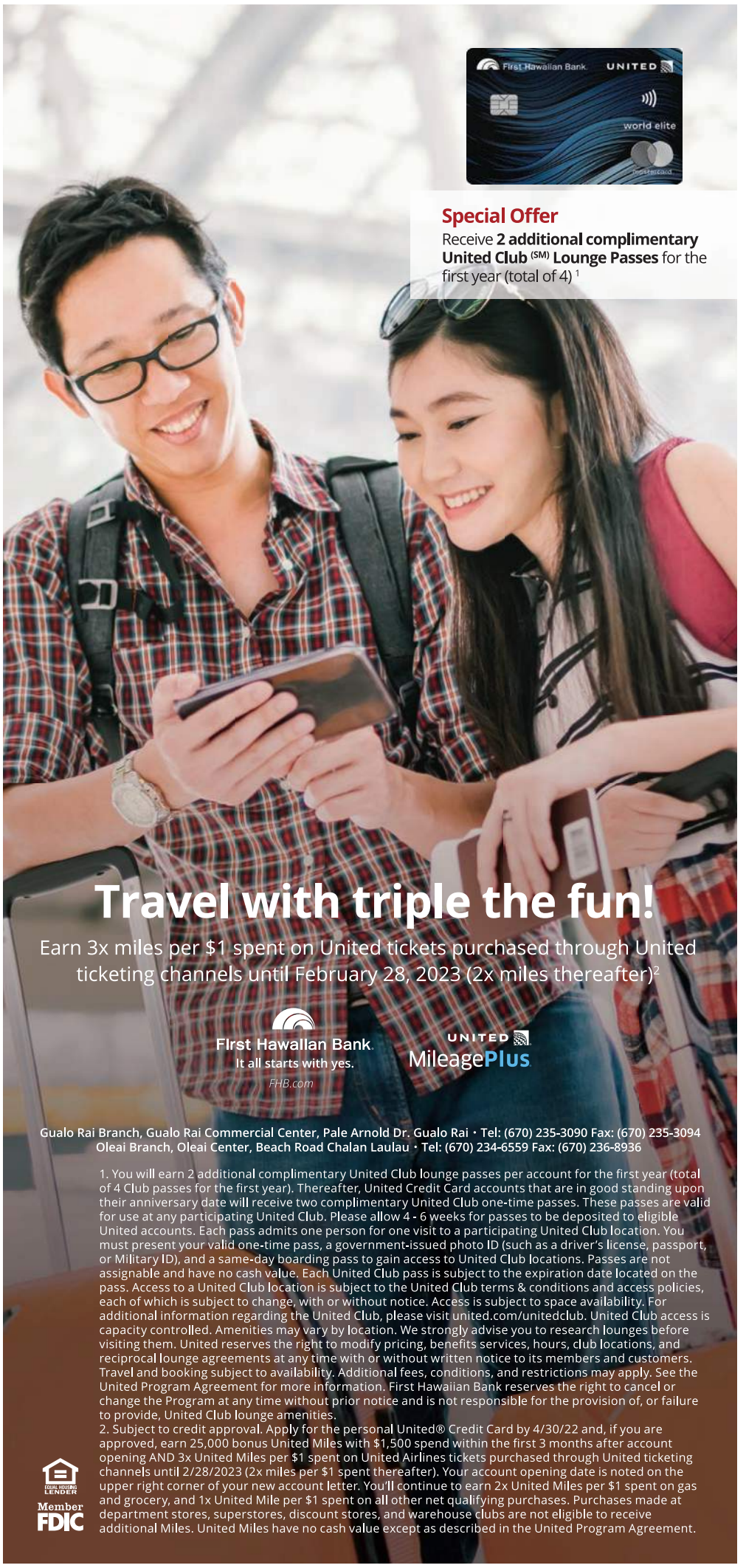
Power service interruption on March 10

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power service interruption on March 10, 2022, from 3pm to 3pm, affecting Route 305 (CUC customers on Mwaremwar Ave., Sirena Ave., Tenda Ave., Dandan Elementary School, Sailing Drive, Adios P1., Fishin Pl., Kattan Hudda Dr. and JIL Church).

This will allow CUC to disconnect the overhead primary jumpers along Route 305 in Dandan Road across Hudda Drive in preparation for the March 11 scheduled power service interruption.

The SV-7 water well will be affected but not water services to the areas. Also, no wastewater facility will be affected.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. ***(PR)***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1. You will earn 2 additional complimentary United Club lounge passes per account for the first year (total of 4 Club passes for the first year). Thereafter, United Credit Card accounts that are in good standing upon their anniversary date will receive two complimentary United Club one-time passes. These passes are valid for use at any participating United Club. Please allow 4 - 6 weeks for passes to be deposited to eligible United accounts. Each pass admits one person for one visit to a participating United Club location. You must present your valid one-time pass, a government-issued photo ID (such as a driver's license, passport, or Military ID), and a same-day boarding pass to gain access to United Club locations. Passes are not assignable and have no cash value. Each United Club pass is subject to the expiration date located on the pass. Access to a United Club location is subject to the United Club terms & conditions and access policies, each of which is subject to change, with or without notice. Access is subject to space availability. For additional information regarding the United Club, please visit united.com/unitedclub. United Club access is capacity controlled. Amenities may vary by location. We strongly advise you to research lounges before visiting them. United reserves the right to modify pricing, benefits services, hours, club locations, and reciprocal lounge agreements at any time with or without written notice to its members and customers. Travel and booking subject to availability. Additional fees, conditions, and restrictions may apply. See the United Program Agreement for more information. First Hawaiian Bank reserves the right to cancel or change the Program at any time without prior notice and is not responsible for the provision of, or failure to provide, United Club lounge amenities.
2. Subject to credit approval. Apply for the personal United® Credit Card by 4/30/22 and, if you are approved, earn 25,000 bonus United Miles with $1,500 spend within the first 3 months after account opening AND 3x United Miles per $1 spent on United Airlines tickets purchased through United ticketing channels until 2/28/2023 (2x miles per $1 spent thereafter). Your account opening date is noted on the upper right corner of your new account letter. You'll continue to earn 2x United Miles per $1 spent on gas and grocery, and 1x United Mile per $1 spent on all other net qualifying purchases. Purchases made at department stores, superstores, discount stores, and warehouse clubs are not eligible to receive additional Miles. United Miles have no cash value except as described in the United Program Agreement.
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Increase in COVID cases, other OPM jobs hampered DPS, DOC desk audit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of Personnel Management could not complete as scheduled its desk audit of the departments of Public Safety and Corrections due to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in the CNMI, as well as the demands of other projects.

With these setbacks, Personnel director Frances Torres-Salas asked the Legislature last week for 90 more days to finish the desk audit.

Among other goals, the audit seeks to find out if DPS and DOC employees are actually performing their work and whether the departments are adequately or excessively staffed, as well as to assess overtime requests.

Torres-Salas informed Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) that they began their fieldwork phase of the desk audit in late November 2021 but could not complete it as scheduled due to the unforeseen rise in COVID-19 cases. She said the spike caused absences and the eventual temporary government shutdown of some offices.

Torres-Salas said she rec-

See INCREASE on Next Page

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REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

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Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **March 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Bar K Diner's Conference Room, Tinian.**

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
      i. Special Board Meeting Minutes – December 30, 2021
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   a. Finance Committee
      i. Fund Status Report
      ii. Reprogramming of Funds
         1. MVA Korea – TAMS Inc. – MVA-CT-2015
   b. CNMI Tourism Resumption Investment Plan (TRIP)
      i. CNMI TRIP – Marketing Plan
      ii. Muan Charter Proposal
4) **Old Business**
   a. Change Order: MVA Korea – TAMS Inc.
   b. Taste of the Marianas – Expenditure Plan and Dates
   c. Memorandum of Agreement
      i. Carolinians Affairs Office – Refaluwasch Advisory Council
5) **New Business**
   a. MVA Office Moving Expense – Request for Funding
   b. Audit Service – Request for Extension and Funding
   c. MVA Japan Office – Request for Approval to extend services for one-month period.
   d. Sole Source Contract – KSPN2 Flame Tree TV, Visitors Channel – Safety Tips Airtime
6) **Executive Session**
7) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

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LANDLORD BRIEFING ANNOUNCEMENT
To All Interested Individuals, Real Estate Companies, & Landlords...

YOU ARE INVITED

Please come join us as we present the benefits of partnering with Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

WHEN — MARCH 11, 2022 | 5:00PM TO 7:00PM
WHERE — MAYOR'S CONFERENCE HALL TATACHOG, ROTA
TOPICS INCLUDE — Benefits to becoming a Section 8 Landlord, Landlord Rights & Responsibilities, Housing Assistance Payment (HAP), Registration & many more...

For more information, please contact NMHC Rota Field Representative Arvin Ogo and Assistant Tina Atalig
at (670) 532-9410

Email: Arvin Ogo - ropnmhc@nmhcgov.net
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2017 KIA SPORTAGE LX FWD SPORT UTILITY
STOCK #: SP21P0141
Trans: 6-Speed Auto w/OD
Mileage: 60,953
WAS $15,999*
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PRE-OWNED 2017 TOYOTA YARIS FWD HATCHBACK
STOCK #: SP21T0193
Trans: 4-Speed Automatic w/OD
Mileage: 24,087
NOW $15,999*

2018 TOYOTA COROLLA IM BASE FWD HATCHBACK
STOCK #: SP21P0185
Trans: 1-Speed CVT w/OD
Mileage: 33,812
WAS $19,999*
NOW $18,999*

2018 TOYOTA COROLLA IM
STOCK #: SP22P0003
Mileage: 58,988
NOW $19,999*

2018 TOYOTA CAMRY FWD 4DR CAR
STOCK #: SP21P0176
Trans: 8-Speed Automatic w/OD
Mileage: 43,3963
WAS $22,999*
NOW $21,999*

2019 TOYOTA C-HR FWD SPORT UTILITY
STOCK #: SP21P0195
Trans: 1-Speed CVT w/OD
Mileage: 20,327
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2017 TOYOTA 4RUNNER 4WD SPORT UTILITY
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Trans: 5-Speed Automatic w/OD
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3 COVID-related deaths in Guam

The Guam Joint Information Center reported yesterday three COVID-19-related fatalities, even as Guam posts 295 new cases and 28 hospitalized due to COVID-19.

A JIC news release yesterday said that Guam's 332nd COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City on March 3, 2022. The patient was an 83-year-old female, fully vaccinated with a booster, who had underlying health conditions and tested positive on March 3.

The 333rd COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Memorial Hospital on March 4, 2022. The patient was an 89-year-old male, fully vaccinated without a booster, who had underlying health conditions and tested positive on March 3.

The 334th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the GRMC on March 6, 2022. The patient was a 67-year-old male, fully vaccinated with a booster, who had underlying health conditions and tested positive on March 2.

"We extend our deepest condolences and sympathies to their friends and families as they grieve the loss of their loved ones," said Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero in the JIC statement. "If you have not done so, optimize yours and your family's protection against severe impacts from COVID-19 by getting your full vaccination series and most importantly, your booster shots. This, coupled with adopting a healthier lifestyle to combat comorbidities, could make all the difference in the fight against this deadly virus."

From March 5 to 8, 2022, Guam's Department of Public Health and Social Services reported 295 new cases of COVID-19 and 28 who are currently hospitalized. One of the 28 is on a ventilator.

To date, there have been a total of 45,837 officially reported cases in Guam, 334 deaths, 1,704 cases in active isolation, and 43,799 not in active isolation. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

PENTAGON

From Page 1

John Kirby said the decision by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin is based on a new Pentagon assessment, but also is in line with an order from Hawaii's Department of Health to drain fuel from the tanks at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

The tanks, built into the side of a mountain during World War II to protect them from enemy attack, had leaked into a drinking water well and contaminated water at Pearl Harbor homes and offices.

Nearly 6,000 people, mostly those living in military housing at or near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam were sickened, seeking treatment for nausea, headaches, rashes and other ailments. And 4,000 military families were forced out of their homes and are in hotels.

Lauren Wright remembers her skin peeling, feeling nauseous and vomiting. Her symptoms disappeared only when she stopped drinking, showering and washing dishes with her home's water.

Since early December, Wright, her sailor husband and their three children ages 7 to 17 have been among the thousands of military families living in Honolulu hotels paid for by the Navy so they can have clean water.

"I am happy because it is a step in the right direction. It should have happened a long time ago," Wright said. "Hopefully, they don't drag their feet and it moves quickly so another spill or leak doesn't happen again."

She said her water at home still has a sheen and smell. The Wright family hopes to find a new home and said she and her family won't be drinking the water, even after officials sign off on its safety.

"My plan is not to use the water, or if we have to use it very, very little. I will not be drinking it, cooking with it," she said. "We've been looking at home filtration systems that we could use, but I don't trust it. I don't even want to bathe in it. I don't want to brush our teeth with it because I don't trust the water."

Austin spoke with Hawaii government leaders on Monday to inform them of the decision, which he said will protect the population and the environment, and will also lay the groundwork for a more secure military fueling system.

"This is the right thing to do," Austin said in a statement. "Centrally-located bulk fuel storage of this magnitude likely made sense in 1943, when Red Hill was built. And Red Hill has served our armed forces well for many decades. But it makes a lot less sense now."

Hawaii Gov. David Ige called it "great news for the people of Hawaii."

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, said she has been encouraging the Pentagon to make the shutdown decision for weeks.

"I have said from day one that ensuring the health and safety of the residents of Oahu is my top priority and I share the community's big sigh of relief with this news," said Hirono, who is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The Pentagon said it will move to a more dispersed fueling system for military ships and aircraft in the Indo-Pacific. Based on the new assessment, the expanded system will be more cost effective and provide greater security by spreading the fuel supply more broadly across the region.

The new plan, laid out in recommendations delivered to Austin by a study group, would increase the fuel contracts that the U.S. has with other territories and nations in the Indo-Pacific, and add several more tanker ships that are based at sea. There are currently less than a dozen tanker ships, so several more would have to be built.

An assessment team that had been studying how to make the tanks safe to operate will now determine how to shut the tanks down and remove the fuel in an environmentally safe way. The team must report back to Austin by the end of April with recommendations.

After the facility can operate again, the defueling will begin and the process is expected to take about a year, meaning it would be finished some time next year. Austin has asked the Navy secretary to plan a budget for all necessary corrective action for any prior fuel releases from the facility.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

OVER

From Page 1

for the NMI Clerk of Courts ordering the seizure of all IPI's monies stored in their Bank of Saipan accounts, including but not limited to, checking account funds, savings account funds, private reserve account funds, CDs, cash, and currency in safety deposit boxes.

After being served the writ, Bank of Saipan issued a cashier's check to the U.S. Marshals in the amount of $9,386.66 payable to the U.S District Court for the NMI Clerk of Courts.

However, the amount seized from IPI's local account was not enough to satisfy the judgement granted in favor of Red Coral in the amount of $163,500.

Last week, the U.S. District Court for the NMI issued a writ of execution in favor of Red Coral, allowing the seizure of IPI's monies at the Bank of Saipan to satisfy the $163,500 judgment against the casino investment.

Last Friday, Heather Kennedy, District Court for the NMI magistrate judge and clerk of court, informed IPI that the court has issued the writ of execution that would allow the U.S. Marshal Service to seize its money held at the Bank of Saipan to satisfy the $163,500 judgment.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Red Coral, an apartment owner, sued IPI because the casino investor allegedly breached their lease agreement by failing to pay any rent for 20 apartment units, and destroying or taking furniture, fixtures, and other property belonging to the corporation when it vacated the premises.

Colin Thompson, representing Red Coral, said IPI and Red Coral entered into a lease agreement that contains an arbitration clause requiring either party to arbitrate their disputes arising from the lease.

Thompson said that Red Coral sent several demand letters as well as a demand to arbitrate but IPI had not responded to any of those demands. Without cooperation from IPI, Red Coral could not arbitrate its dispute as required under the lease agreement.

INCREASE

From Page 3

ognizes that the law mandates OPM to complete the task with audit findings within 180 days from when it was awarded to the contractor.

"We are faced with several challenges, to include the ongoing Tyler-Munis transition and reinstatement of the public service recognition event, in addition to other ongoing day-to-day work," she said.

The director said Public Law 22-08 mandates their office to conduct the desk audit on DPS and DOC and that in their meeting with the House Ways and Means Committee last Oct. 18, they discussed and identified the three audit objectives their office will perform.

Torres-Salas said in planning and performing the audit in the initial phase, they did not realize the magnitude of work that is involved.

There are a total of 425 DPS and DOC personnel for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The director said the audit involves the review and analyses of assessment results of each individual personnel file to include the need to travel to Rota and Tinian to conduct face-to-face interviews with each personnel.

2ND

From Page 1

and Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian).

The Senate is expected to adopt the joint resolution during a session at the Tinian Superior Courthouse tomorrow, Thursday, at 1:30pm.

The joint resolution does not include any language about giving the governor 100% reprogramming authority, which was why the House Democrat representatives balked at and rejected a previous Senate version of the bill for retirees' bonuses.

The joint resolution states that the Finance secretary shall report all reprogramming pursuant to this resolution to the chairman of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs and the House Committee on Ways and Means within 30 days after the reprogramming of funds.

The joint resolution states that Torres and Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig have already communicated with the Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang and the Office of the Attorney General regarding the $1,000 retiree bonuses and they have all agreed that this is the best course of action to take in order to make the bonus happen.

Torres and Atalig plan to reprogram $2.6 million from within the Executive Branch for the sole purpose of retiree bonuses.

Both assured the Legislature that programs within the Executive Branch will not be hindered in any way as these funds will be back-filled using American Rescue Plan Act funds under the provisions of Government Loss Revenues, which is subject to state law.

ARPA prohibits using ARPA funds to pay for state retirement benefits, including any CNMI retiree bonus.

If necessary, Torres and Atalig said, the governor and lieutenant governor's discretionary accounts and funding sources under Finance will be reprogrammed for this purpose.

With the availability and assistance of several federal funding sources for the CNMI government's operations and four years after the last retiree bonus distribution, Torres now wants to reprogram $2.6 million from within the Executive Branch to make another much needed $1,000 retiree bonus distribution to the retirees.

However, Public Law 22-08 does not include a program and business unit specifically for retiree bonuses, which is required in order to reprogram the funds and make the payments.

Last March 1, Atalig wrote a letter to Hofschneider, assuring that Finance awaits legislative action to permit the use of general fund resources for the payment of $1,000 bonuses for the retirees.

Atalig sought the Senate's support in securing the necessary legislative authorization, saying this would allow Finance to release the bonus payments to retirees.

The six senators stated in the joint resolution that, although the Planning and Budgeting Act defined a House concurrent resolution to originate in the House, the Planning and Budgeting Act did not define a "joint resolution" in the Commonwealth Code to specify that such joint resolution must also originate in the House. Therefore, the senators said, a joint resolution pursuant to the Commonwealth Code may properly be introduced in the Senate.

The senators noted that the Senate previously exercised its authority to introduce and adopt a resolution to approve a governor's request for reprogramming of funds when the Senate introduced and adopted Senate Joint Resolution 19-4.

The House adopted the joint resolution that authorized the governor to reprogram funds in excess of the limits.

Last Dec. 14, Torres requested the Legislature to allow reprogramming of funds for the sole purpose of funding the retirees' $500 bonuses. The following day, the Senate adopted Senate Joint Resolution 22-05, which approved Torres' request.

Last Jan. 12, the House did not act on the Senate Joint Resolution 22-05 and instead unanimously passed a bipartisan legislation, House Bill 22-91, HD1, that proposes to amend the Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2022 to establish a business unit and allocate $1.3 million in local funds to pay $500 bonuses for each government retiree.

Last Feb. 3, the Senate unanimously passed their version of the bill, with amendments offered by Hofschneider to reflect, among other things, the bonus increase to $1,000. Last Feb. 22, the House rejected the Senate's version of the bill. Democrat representatives opposed a language in the Senate's version that will give Torres' 100% reprogramming authority of the budget.

All 20 representatives agreed to the creation of a conference committee that will hammer out with the Senate a mutually acceptable bill for retirees' bonuses.

The House conference committee subsequently filed a substitute bill that will re-appropriate $2.62 million in local funds from sources that are already identified, including provisions that were originally passed by both the House and Senate but line-item vetoed by Torres.

Hofschneider did not appoint Senate conferees and instead filed Monday Senate Joint Resolution 22-09.

Submarine tender visits

U.S. NAVY/MCS1 VICTORIA KINNEY

Sailors assigned to the submarine tender USS *Emory S. Land* (AS 39) pose for a photo after hiking Mount Tapochau, Saipan's highest point, during a historical tour of the island provided by Land's religious ministries team, Feb. 22.

By VICTORIA KINNEY
USS EMORY S. LAND (AS-39)

POLARIS POINT, Guam— The submarine tender USS *Emory S Land* (AS 39) made its first port visit since taking over as the lead maintenance activity, visiting Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands last Feb. 21-23.

"The fact that we are able to leave homeport while holding the LMA title is a testament to the skill of our stay-behind crew and the teamwork between the two tenders," said Capt. Andrew Ring, *Land's* commanding officer. "This shows that we can be of service to ships anywhere in the Indo-Pacific region while simultaneously supporting vessels in Guam."

Crew members were able to tour the island and enjoy some rest and relaxation. Activities included go-kart racing, snorkeling, a historical tour, and a physical fitness training session with a local middle school. The sailors and civil service mariners abided by all COVID-19 protocols.

Saipan is the largest island of the Northern Marianas and was a strategic outpost in World War II. The island features multiple memorials for those that were lost during the Battle of Saipan.

U.S. Navy ships and submarines routinely make ports of call in a variety of locations around the globe. U.S. Navy submarine tenders visit ports to maintain at-sea proficiency, demonstrate advanced capabilities, and strengthen our long-standing partnerships in the region.

Guam is home to the U.S. Navy's only submarine tenders, *Land* and USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40), as well as four Los Angeles-class fast-attack submarines. The submarine tenders provide maintenance, hotel services, and logistical support to submarines and surface ships in the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleet areas of operation. The submarines and tenders are maintained as part of the U.S. Navy's forward-deployed submarine force and are readily capable of meeting global operational requirements. Under Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy's largest forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with 35 maritime nations in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

For more information about USS *Emory S. Land* (AS 39), visit us at http://www.csp.navy.mil/emorysland/ or like us on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/EmorySLand.

For more news from USS *Emory S. Land* (AS 39), visit http://www.navy.mil/local/as39/.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE DISSOLUTION

Please take notice that Alliance Ent. Inc. (the corporation) intends to file articles of dissolution with the CNMI Registrar of Corporations anytime after this notice is made.
Anyone with a claim against the corporation is requested to submit it in accordance with the following:
1. The claim shall be made in writing and shall state the name of the claimant, the amount of the claim, the factual basis for the claim, and the name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the person who may be contacted by the corporation with respect to the claim.
2. The claim may be sent to: P.O. Box 501803, Saipan MP 96950.
3. A claim against the corporation will be barred unless a processing to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of the notice.

Alliance Ent. Inc
P.O. Box 501803, Saipan MP 96950
670-588-2996

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: March 9, 2022

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal negative determination from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding proposed funding for the Proposed Passenger Loading Bridge Replacement at Saipan International Airport. More information about the proposed activity can be accessed via the DCRM website at:

https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/CZMA.Negative-Determination.GSN_.Loading-Bridge-Project.02-04-22.Complete.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a state's federally approved coastal management program (CMP).

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's CMP can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resources Management at fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

Public notices are published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. State agencies are not required to provide public notice of the receipt of a negative determination or the resolution of an objection to a negative determination, unless a Federal agency submits a consistency determination pursuant to 15 CFR § 930.34. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on March 9, 2022 and ending on March 24, 2022. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514 | Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

Tels: (670) 233-9447
233-9448
233-9449
233-9450
Fax: (670) 234-9451

PUBLIC NOTICE

03/09/2022
This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after March 25, 2022, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project Activity/Type:
Public School System (PSS) Marianas High School (MHS) Career and Technical Center (CTE) construction of a new building.

The MHS CTE was damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu around October 2018. The MHS CTE building was assessed and evaluated by FEMA representatives and found that the extent of the damage for repair cost exceeded beyond 87.5% of the building replacement. Instead of partial repairs of the building, it was determined it is more beneficial for the CNMI to construct a new building.

This project is about 50,000 square feet two-storey concrete building. The building will house the following programs: The hospitality and tourism training; Automotive technology workshop; Computer and Server supporting information technology; Cosmetology classroom and mock-up salon and laboratory space; Health science and nursing space with clinic; Dressing room and storage; Music room for performing arts; and Commercial teaching kitchen for culinary arts.

Purpose:
The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) recognizes the requirements provided under 83 FR 40314 but firmly believes that the eligible activities under CDBG-DR Infrastructure Program are permissible and thereby asserts that the PSS MHS CTE is an essential component that trains 600 students annually for careers and skills needed in the CNMI economy. The need to fill the technical labor workforce in the CNMI begins with the training of skills and knowledge needed for employment. This project ensures the future of CNMI workforce consistency and enhancement of individual contribution to the island labor pool.

Location:
Lot 39 H 01, Susupe Village, Saipan MP 96950

Total Project Cost:
$6,000,000.00:CDBG-DR funding
$6,000,000.00: Economic Development Administration (EDA)

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipanamined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp. All comments received by **March 24, 2022, 4:00 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov ; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/
Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

OIA announces $1.8M for Marshall Islands healthcare program

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has announced $1,876,297 in fiscal year 2022 Technical Assistance Program funding to the Republic of the Marshall Islands' Ministry of Health and Human Services for the Four Atoll Healthcare Program. The program provides primary healthcare services for communities from the four nuclear-affected atolls of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrok in the Marshall Islands.

"This funding provides important preventive and screening healthcare services support each year to the peoples of four atolls in the Marshall Islands that were affected by the U.S. nuclear testing program from 1946 to 1958. We are pleased to announce that this year's funding includes the addition of vital dental services in these communities," said deputy assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Keone Nakoa. "OIA provides this continued support on behalf of the U.S. government as part of our ongoing partnership with the people of the Marshall Islands."

The fiscal year 2022 TAP funding provided to the Four Atoll Healthcare Program will support clinics that serve the nuclear-affected communities on Majuro, Mejatto, Kili, Enewetak, and Utrok. For the peoples of Enewetak and Utrok, as well as the dislocated peoples of Bikini and Rongelap, these clinics provide primary and ancillary healthcare services including support for women's and children wellness, vision, vaccinations, screening for communicable diseases, and education and outreach on non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. Funding this year includes an increase to support a dentist and dental equipment.

Nakoa

OIA has provided TAP funding assistance to the Four Atoll Healthcare Program, also referred to as the Section 177 Healthcare Program, every year since 2005. Bikini, Rongelap, Enewetak, and Utrok are the four atolls in the Republic of the Marshall Islands recognized by the United States as impacted by the nuclear weapons testing program. The populations of these atolls, including the still-dislocated populations of Bikini and Rongelap live throughout the Marshall Islands and in the United States.

As authorized and appropriated pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1469(d), OIA's Technical Assistance Program has been used to continue funding under the Four Atoll Healthcare Program identified in the Section 177 Agreement under Article II, Section 1 of the Compact of Free Association (P.L. 108-188), that expired after the initial 15-year period under which this program was first funded.

The Assistant Secretary of Insular and International Affairs and the OIA carry out the Interior secretary's responsibilities for American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. ***(PR)***

If you have an Asbestos Claim against Paddock Enterprises, LLC ("Paddock"), formerly Owens-Illinois, which made Kaylo products, you have the right to vote on Paddock's Plan of Reorganization ("the Plan").

Voting will help determine whether the Plan is accepted by holders of Asbestos Claims.

Submit Your Vote by April 8, 2022.

Para información en español, visite el sitio web o llame al 877-425-8665.

IF YOU HAVE A GENERAL ASBESTOS CLAIM OR INDIRECT ASBESTOS CLAIM
against Paddock, formerly Owens-Illinois, Inc., which made Kaylo products, your rights may be affected by an upcoming vote on the Plan (available at PaddockVote.com) as part of the Paddock bankruptcy proceedings. Your vote will help determine whether the Plan will be confirmed.

THE BANKRUPTCY COURT APPROVED A DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (AVAILABLE AT PADDOCKVOTE.COM)
containing information that will help you decide how to vote on the Plan. The Plan proposes to set up a trust to resolve all Asbestos Claims.

YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED IF THE PLAN IS APPROVED.
Only holders of General Asbestos Claims or Indirect Asbestos Claims, or their attorneys on their behalf, are entitled to receive a ballot to vote on the Plan. Holders of Claims and Equity Interests in all other Classes under the Plan are presumed to accept the Plan and are not entitled to vote.

The voting deadline by which ballots must be actually received by Paddock's balloting agent, Prime Clerk LLC, is **April 8, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. ET**. If you are unsure whether your attorney is authorized to vote on the Plan and intends to vote on your behalf, please contact your attorney.

IF THE PLAN IS APPROVED BY THE BANKRUPTCY COURT,
all Asbestos Claims (whether or not you voted in favor of or against the Plan) will be channeled to the Asbestos Trust and resolved pursuant to the Trust Distribution Procedures.

Please read the Plan and other Plan Documents carefully for details about how the Plan, if approved, may affect your rights.

If you have an Asbestos Claim, you will be deemed to have granted the "Releases by Holders of Claims" set forth in Section 10.6 of the Plan if you fall into any of the following categories:

(a) you vote to accept the Plan;

(b) you vote against the Plan, but you do not opt out of the releases by affirmatively checking the appropriate box on your ballot; or

(c) you do not vote for or against the Plan and do not opt out of the releases provided for in the Plan.

Parties not entitled to vote on the Plan may opt out of such releases by objecting to the releases by the deadline below.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO OBJECT TO THE PLAN.
The deadline to file an objection to the Plan is **May 5, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. ET**. There are specific requirements that must be followed to file an objection. The requirements are found in the Solicitation Procedures Order and other notices relating to Paddock's Plan (which can be found at PaddockVote.com). Objections received after the deadline may not be considered by the Bankruptcy Court and may be deemed overruled without further notice.

This is only a summary. You can obtain additional information or instructions, review the Plan Documents, or obtain a solicitation package with a ballot to vote (as applicable), by contacting Prime Clerk LLC. Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein have the meanings ascribed to such terms in the Plan.

Paddock Ballot Processing
c/o Prime Clerk LLC
850 Third Avenue, Suite 412
Brooklyn, NY 11232

Visit: PaddockVote.com

Request More Information: paddockinfo@primeclerk.com

Request Ballot with Solicitation Package to Vote on the Plan: paddockballots@primeclerk.com

Call: (877) 425-8665 (Toll-Free) or +1 (917) 947-6267 (International)

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OPERATIONS STANDING COMMITTEE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors informs the general public that the Operations Standing Committee will meet on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., and Friday, March 11, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., at the Tinian Mayor's Conference Room, Tinian.

AGENDA*

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
  D. Introduction
    1. CUC Board of Directors
    2. CUC Management
    3. Tinian Leadership Team
II. OLD BUSINESS
  A. CUC/Telesource Contract
  B. Status: Power Projects
    1. Replacement
    2. Existing Utility Relocations – Department of Defense Funded Projects
      a. Phase 1 – Power
      b. West San Jose Power Lines
      c. Underground Power Lines
  C. Status of Water Projects
    1. Water Restoration and Mitigation Updates
    2. Carolinas Heights Green Water Tank Repair
    3. Existing Utility Relocation – Department of Defense Funded Projects
      a. Phase I – Water: Road G
      b. Phase II – Water: Road A-F and Route 205/206
    4. West San Jose Water Lines
      a. Phase 2 ($1.3M) and Phase 3 ($1.14M) -2020
        1. Construction Cost U.S. EPA Funded
    5. System Improvement Recommendation s
    6. Feasibility Study for Sewage Treatment Plan
    7. Miscellaneous
III. New Business
  A. TOUR
    1. CUC Facilities/Telesource Power Plant
    2. Maui Well #2
    3. Carolinas Heights Water Tank
IV. Public Comments
V. Executive Session
VI. Announcements
VII. Adjournment /Recess

* *In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items maybe added to the above listing by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.*
** *All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes*
*** *Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.*

CANCELLED

Hotel occupancy at 23% in February 2022

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a 24% average occupancy rate among its 12 member-hotels for February 2022, compared to 5% average occupancy in February 2021.

A total of 9,767 of 41,093 available room nights sold during February 2022, compared to 1,853 of 34,849 available rooms in February 2021.

Average room rates were $136.60 compared to $145.00 last February.

"The first phase of the Tourism Resumption Investment Plan Korea program ended in January and, coupled with the omicron surge, the Marianas experienced a dip in demand, which forced air carriers to scale back some flights," said HANMI chair Ivan Quichocho.

"The TRIP program is slated to transition to incentive-based flights in the months of March to May, provided it can pass all applicable government reviews and approvals."

Quichocho also serves on the Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors and as chairman of the CNMI TRIP program.

Hotels included in HANMI's monthly statistical report are Aqua Resort Club, Aquarius Beach Tower, Century Hotel, GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Kanoa Resort Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Saipan World Resort, Surfrider Resort Hotel, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan. The occupancy rates do not include venue rentals at Kanoa Resort Saipan for government COVID-19 quarantine accommodations.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the Marianas. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects. ***(PR)***

SHRM: March 15 is deadline to participate in PWS survey

The Society for Human Resources Management–CNMI Chapter is reminding that the data collection portal is now open for businesses and organizations to log on and complete the 2022 CNMI Prevailing Wage Study survey. The data collection phase is from March 1 to March 15. The results of the survey will be used to produce the CNMI hourly wage statistics for 2022.

All private businesses, public agencies, and organizations, with employees and with no employees in the CNMI are urged to participate in the 2022 PWS survey.

Businesses and organizations can access the portal through http://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/.

For those who registered and participated in the 2021 PWS survey, you may use your username and password that you created in 2021 to log in to the portal, update your business/agency/organization information, and submit your employee data for 2022.

For everyone else who will submit survey data for the first time via the CNMI PWS portal, you will be prompted to create a username and a password. Creating your username and password registers you into the site and allows you to provide basic directory information about your business/agency/organization and submit the requested employee data for the survey. Be sure to allow yourself time to review and understand the survey instructions provided on the portal before proceeding to complete the survey.

The 2018 NMI US Workforce Act requires the CNMI to publish a prevailing wage report annually for CW1 visa determination and approval by the US Department of Labor. Additionally, the 2022 PWS data will be used to publish a separate report detailing the survey methodology with a more detailed occupational wage statistics for PERM, H-1B and H-2B determination and approval by the US Department of Labor.

Questions and inquiries for the 2022 PWS should be directed to the Prevailing Wage Study project at telephone numbers 322-3005/3007 or email address cnmi.csd@commerce.gov.mp. ***(Saipan Tribune/PR)***

Guam PTEC sets free webinars

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars this month. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ March 10, 2022-How to get 8(a) Certified - The 8(a) program is a business development program for companies owned by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals. The Guam PTAC will discuss eligibility, the online application, and follow-up documentation.

■ March 17, 2022-How to get Women Owned Small Business Certified - WOSB is an official SBA certification program. We will discuss the online certification process as well as supporting document requirements.

■ March 24, 2022-SBA Mentor-Protege Program - The SBA Mentor-Protégé program allows small businesses to team up with large businesses without running afoul of affiliation regulations. The Guam PTAC will update you on the eligibility requirements, the application process, and follow-up requirements.

■ March 31, 2022-Responding to Requests for Proposals - The Guam PTAC will walk participants through the common sections and clauses of an RFP as well as provide tips on developing a proposal in response to an RFP.

To register, visit: https://www.guamptac.com/ ***(PR)***

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PROJECT COORDINATOR
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IF YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HAVE AN ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT.
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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

P.O. Box 10007 I Saipan, MP 96950 I Phone: (670) 664-1712 I Email: cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp

VISION: *"To integrate a seamless workforce development system that meets the needs of employers, job-seekers, workers, and youths in order to supply quality employees for the dynamic economy of the CNMI."*

Regular General Membership Meeting

Friday, March 11, 2022
Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

*Due to Covid-19 safety measures, in-person attendance is limited to members of the State Workforce Development Board. Virtual attendance is available to members of the public interested in attending or making public comments. Please email cnmiswdb@dol.gov.mp for thelink prior to the meeting.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review & Adoption of Agenda
IV. Adoption of Minutes – February 10, 2022 General Membership Meeting**
V. Public Comments
VI. Old Business
  a. Public Comments on Unified State Plan Modifications PY 2022-2023**
VII. New Business
  a. Eligible Training Providers Application for Continued Eligibility**
    1. Guam Marianas Training Center
    2. Island Training Solutions
    3. Northern Marianas College
VIII. Executive Session
IX. Announcements
X. Next Meeting:
XI. Adjournment

/s/ Velma Palacios
SWDB Chairperson

***Denotes Action Item*

This announcement is paid in full through a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration.

MISSION: *"MISSION: ""Empowering, integrating, implementing, and innovating the workforce needs of the CNMI."*

How's Your Hearing?

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- Digital and ProgrammableTechnology
- Custom Communication Devices

Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
Email: rosshearingaids@yahoo.com

■ Thursday, March 17th 9:00am - 4:00pm
■ Friday, March 18th 9:00am - 4:00pm
at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan

Ross Hearing Aids

All interested patients should call Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling
234-3925/7
Insurance accepted: AETNA and Medicaid

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

White supremacist propaganda is flourishing. True conservatives can counter it

White supremacist groups in the U.S. are distributing propaganda at historically high rates in the past few years, says a new report from the Anti-Defamation League. It appears to be part of a backlash against America's increasing diversity—a trend that is going to continue for the foreseeable future. Pushback to the hate-mongering must come especially from responsible conservative voices, which are less likely to be dismissed out of hand by those who might be susceptible to these toxic messages.

Because these groups usually self-identify as conservative, responsible conservatives should be taking the lead in pushing back on that misrepresentation of their ideology. More forceful and specific condemnation by GOP leaders against Republican Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene and Paul Gosar for participating in a recent white nationalist event in Florida, for example, would go a long way toward conveying that message and countering this toxic propaganda.

Those in society who are the most susceptible to this poison aren't likely to listen to the Joe Bidens of the world—but they might listen to prominent Republicans. Those leaders have a vested interest in getting out the message that, regardless of what these vile groups say, true conservatism and white supremacy aren't parallel belief systems.

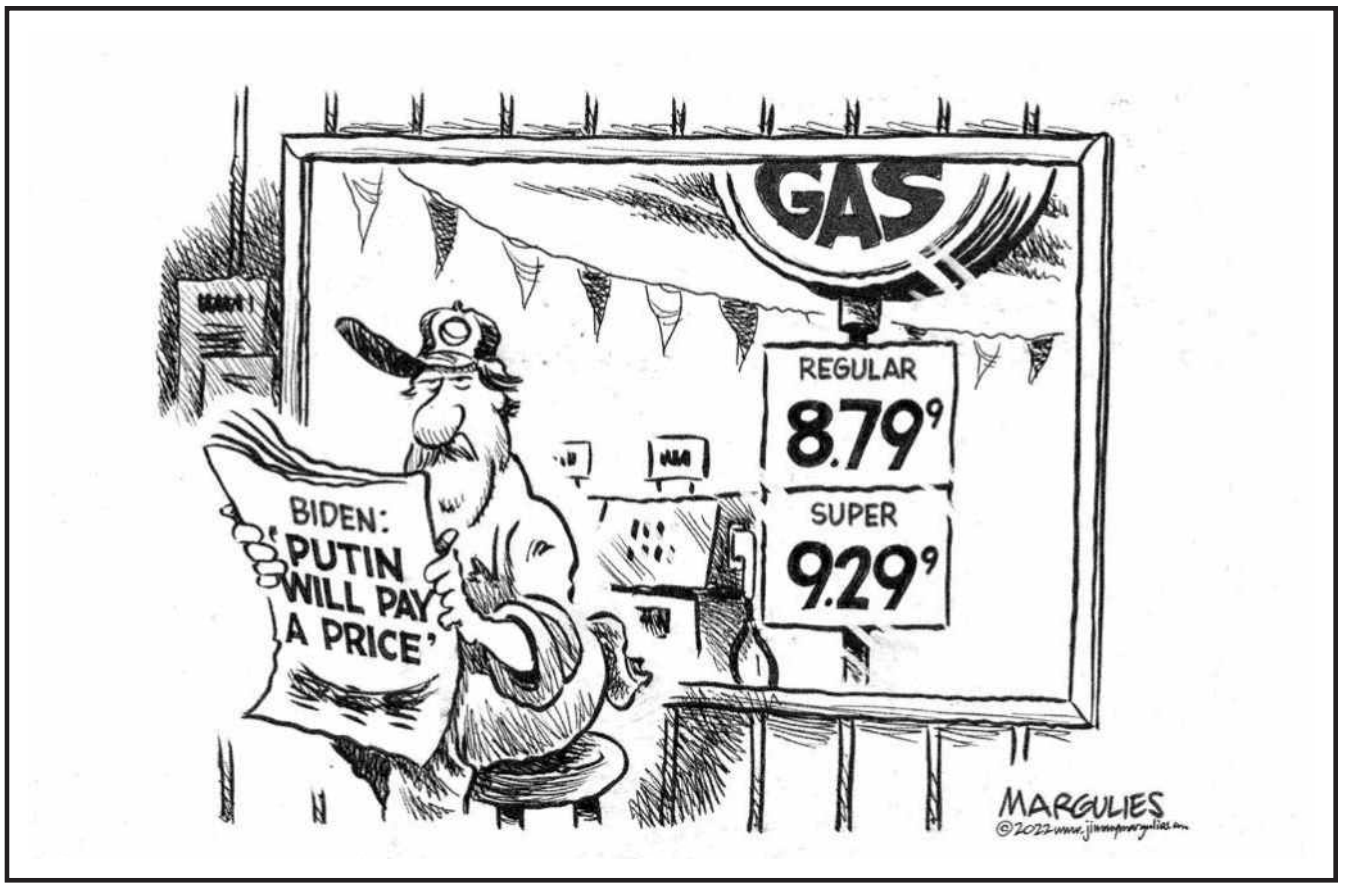
The Anti-Defamation League report found more than 4,800 cases of white supremacist propaganda in 2021. That's down slightly from 2020, but far above the three previous years during which the organization has tracked such propaganda. The propaganda includes racist, antisemitic and anti-LGBTQ banners, flyers, stickers and graffiti plastered around neighborhoods, on synagogues, on bridges over highways and on college campuses. It conveys messages like "Hitler was right," "Reclaim America" and various takes on the white-nationalist trope of "white replacement" by non-whites.

Some of it is pandemic-themed—blaming Jews or immigrants for the coronavirus, for example—which may partly explain why such incidents began spiking in 2020, the year the pandemic began. But the broader phenomenon of the U.S. population becoming more racially diverse also seems to be a factor. The report's author, Carla Hill, associate director of the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism, told The Washington Post that the spiking incidents reflect racist groups becoming "more and more desperate, losing the chance to have America be white."

Coordination among various white supremacist groups in distributing propaganda has also increased. "This activity is more coordinated than ever before," Oren Segal, vice president of the Center on Extremism, told National Public Radio.

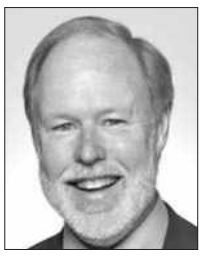
Recruitment of new members is a big part of what drives

See WHITE on Next Page



As bad as the war in Ukraine is now, it's likely to get worse

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times



Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. *Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

Last week, Russian President Vladimir Putin spent 90 minutes on the phone with French President Emmanuel Macron, who asked him to declare a cease-fire in Ukraine.

Not interested, Putin replied.

"He refuses to stop his attacks," Macron wrote on Twitter after the call.

A French official said Putin seemed determined "to take control of all of Ukraine."

"The worst is yet to come," the official added.

Putin's invasion of Ukraine is in its second week. Some Russian units are mired in mud, but the offensive is escalating overall.

As the invasion has escalated, so, too, have economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. and its allies. And, like Ukraine's armed forces, the sanctions have had more punch than expected. The Russian ruble has plunged in value, and ordinary Russians have scrambled to ATMs to try to get their money out of endangered banks.

But the two escalations are far from equivalent.

The sanctions have clearly damaged Russia's economy, but there's no sign that they have affected Putin's calculus.

More Russian units have moved into Ukraine. Russian missile and artillery strikes on civilian neighborhoods have stepped up. Ukraine's three biggest cities — including Kyiv, the capital — are in danger of falling.

Ukraine's defenders are fighting courageously, but they are slowly losing ground.

"Sanctions may influence Russian decision-making down the road," said Richard N. Haass, president of the nonpartisan Council on Foreign Relations. "But they won't stop the siege of Kyiv."

The Russian president has waged war against cities before and has been rewarded with success.

Putin came to power in 1999 largely by waging a savage war against separatists in Russia's mostly Muslim republic of Chechnya. The resulting campaign killed tens of thousands of civilians.

The lesson for Putin: Ruthless military action works.

"Every time you think, 'No, he wouldn't, would he?' Well, yes, he would," Fiona Hill, a former White House expert on Russia, said in an interview with Politico.

Putin's intentions toward Ukraine should have come as no surprise. He has publicly demanded since 2007 that the country be returned to some form of Russian control. The CIA warned that he might invade Ukraine as early as 2008, Hill noted. (She was a CIA intelligence analyst at the time.)

"If he can, he is going to take the whole country," she said.

Putin may not want to occupy all of Ukraine's territory, she added, but he may want to divide it into "a fractured, shattered Ukraine."

And he may be willing to fight for a long time. His war in Chechnya lasted almost 10 years.

The Western response is aimed at raising Putin's costs until he — or Russia's military brass, its oligarchs and the Russian public — decide that their losses from the war outweigh any benefits. That, too, could take a long time.

"Putin has shown no interest in a negotiated outcome that's within the ZIP Code of reality," Haass told me. "That could change, but only if three things occur: if his military suffers high battlefield costs, if the sanctions begin to exact a real economic cost and if popular unrest grows.

"Our policy ought to be aimed at bringing about those three conditions."

Sanctions hawks argue that in addition to punishing Putin in the near term, the measures serve a separate long-term U.S. interest by weakening Russia economically and militarily.

"Sanctions will worsen Russia's position in its long-run competition with western countries," Edward Fishman, a former State Department expert now at Columbia University, told me. "We have zero interest in enhancing Russian power."

He predicted that the sanctions would stay in place "as long as Putin is in power, if not longer," in "a long-term war of attrition."

But an original goal of these sanctions was to persuade Moscow to change course. To accomplish that, the United States needs to offer Russians the prospect of at least some sanctions relief if they withdraw their forces.

That kind of offer isn't likely to change Putin's mind, but it could help increase pressure on him from his military and his oligarchs, as well as the Russian public.

"I can imagine putting out — with the Ukrainians participating — some definition of a negotiated outcome that could produce some sanctions relief," Haass said. "But we're not there yet."

President Joe Biden, for one, isn't there yet. His spokeswoman, Jen Psaki, said last week that sanctions relief isn't on the table.

"We're in the middle of an invasion, so I don't think now is the moment where we are giving anybody that sort of an offramp," she said.

Translation: For now, both sides are still escalating.

That French official was probably right. The worst is yet to come.

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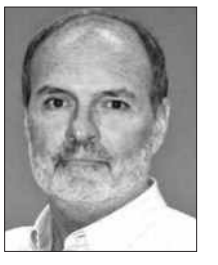
It doesn't take a madman to start a nuclear war

By JOHN M. CRISP
Tribune News Service



John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.

Here's a gloomy proposition: Eventually, a nuclear exchange is inevitable.

The atomic genie was released from the bottle at Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945. The city was destroyed, and more than 200,000 civilians were killed, instantly or within a few days, or years later from the effects of radiation.

But the world was not as horrified as we might now imagine. Many were simply relieved that World War II was finally over, and the ghastly carnage at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was quietly folded into the suffering and deaths of millions during the war.

Some, however, recognized that the atomic bomb represented a new order of violence. President Harry Truman called the bomb "destructive beyond anything we have ever had. … So we have got to treat this differently from rifles and cannon and ordinary things like that."

Nevertheless, as the Cold War developed in the late 1940s, prominent Americans talked openly about using nuclear weapons against the Soviet Union, and in the early 1950s, Truman declined to take the atomic bomb off the table during the Korean War.

Fortunately, nobody pulled the trigger. Books such as "Hiroshima," John Hersey's vivid account of the devastation of Aug. 6, fostered a better understanding of the horror of nuclear weapons. And in October 1962, the world was scared straight by the Cuban Missile Crisis, when the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. came dangerously close to a nuclear exchange.

Thus began three decades of an uneasy nuclear standoff between the two most powerful players, as well as the lesser nuclear powers. Mutually assured destruction —MAD—kept the stopper in the nuclear bottle. And after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, we sort of forgot about the bottle.

Now the threat is back. Russian President Vladimir Putin has not been subtle. He warned other nations against interfering in his brutal, unprovoked attack on Ukraine by threatening "such consequences as you have never before experienced in your history."

Lest anyone misunderstand, on Feb. 27 Putin put his nuclear forces on high alert. It's difficult to see why the current level of nuclear tension doesn't approach that of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Unfortunately, humankind is not through with war. Any hopes left over from the 1960s that someday we might evolve beyond the instinct to fight—"Suppose they gave a war and nobody came"—have been entirely repudiated by the belligerent decades since.

Further, we have never invented a weapon that we have declined to use. We have tried to outlaw some of the most brutal and inhumane weapons—poison gas, biological agents, napalm and even nuclear weapons—but we've never succeeded. Putin is reportedly using cluster bombs in Ukraine.

No, if we create a weapon, sooner or later, we will use it. Nothing indicates that we will make any special exception for nuclear weapons.

Mutually assured destruction depends heavily on the premise that rational leaders will step away from the brink of the nuclear abyss in the interests of their countries and the survival of the world. The flaw in this questionable theory was the possibility that control of nuclear weapons could fall into the hands of an insane leader.

Now the Ukraine crisis has raised the fear that Putin has become unstable and therefore more dangerous. Perhaps. But the distinction between a madman and a putatively rational leader who sees his interests in serious jeopardy is irrelevant. Truman, who ordered the attack on Hiroshima, was one of our most rational presidents. A nuclear war is as likely to be sparked by a desperate, cornered leader as by a madman. We cannot depend on Putin's mental health to keep us safe from a nuclear exchange.

The war in Ukraine is a showdown between autocracy and a liberal free world. The outcome is much more likely to be determined by force than by diplomacy and sanctions. It would be wonderful if nuclear weapons could be removed from the calculus of force that will stop Putin. Unfortunately, history suggests otherwise.

Whether it sides with Russia or not, China will pay a price

By MINXIN PEI
Los Angeles Times

Minxin Pei is professor of government at Claremont McKenna College.

Until Russian President Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine last week, the standoff between Russia and a U.S.-led Western alliance had produced, on balance, a net strategic benefit for China. Now that Putin has pulled the trigger, the geopolitical game has completely changed.

The months of tension had distracted the U.S. from China, which Washington sees as its most formidable long-term threat. And looking ahead, Putin's full tilt toward China, driven by his grievances against the West, would significantly improve Chinese security by expanding the country's access to advanced weaponry and energy resources.

The optimal situation for China would have been prolonged tensions short of war, because such an ambiguous situation allowed China to avoid taking a firm stand while maintaining friendly ties with some of the key stakeholders—Russia, the European Union and also Ukraine, which had been a major supplier of grains to China.

To be sure, even though war has broken out, China may still end up gaining some geopolitical benefits. In the short term, the U.S. will be forced to focus on confronting Russia and devote less energy to implement its newly announced Indo-Pacific Strategy. In the event of a quick Russian military victory, the U.S. would find itself fighting a new cold war on two fronts.

However, any benefits for China could be outweighed by the costs of being seen as Russia's supporter. And China, like the rest of the world, will face inevitable economic and geopolitical fallout, including from Western sanctions against Russia and a spike in energy prices.

In the short term, the war in Ukraine could not have come at a worse time for President Xi Jinping. His top priority this year is to hold a trouble-free national congress of the ruling Chinese Communist Party that will grant him a third five-year term. For this, he needs all the good news he can get. Dealing with the worst geopolitical crisis since the end of the Cold War will undoubtedly distract Xi from managing China's internal challenges.

These short-term inconveniences pale in comparison with potential long-term risks and costs if China fails to strike a delicate balance between supporting Russia, its strategic partner of convenience, and preventing ties with the West from collapsing completely.

Aside from discrediting its long-held principle of inviolable sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations, China's support for Russia in the coming years could incur huge costs.

As the world's second-largest economy, with more than $3 trillion in hard currency reserves, China has the capacity to help Russia soften the blow of Western sanctions. But Xi faces a real quandary: If he helps his friend Putin, he will endanger China's commercial ties with the West. If he doesn't help, Putin's debacle in Ukraine could further encourage Washington to bolster its support for Taiwan—the issue that concerns China the most—and embolden the pro-independence forces on the island. However unwelcome Putin's war in Ukraine may be for Xi, a Russian defeat would be China's worst nightmare.

But providing substantial financing and technology to Russia would probably trigger secondary sanctions against Chinese entities, such as banks and technology companies. Although China has crafted long-term plans to make its economy more self-reliant and resilient, it is still too dependent on Western markets. Sales to the U.S. and the EU, worth more than $1 trillion in 2021, account for roughly one-third of total Chinese exports. China is especially vulnerable to Western restrictions on semiconductors: It imported $432 billion worth in 2021.

Chinese leaders would have to weigh how far they are willing to go to help Russia without jeopardizing their own economic interests.

Even more worrying to China would be a more united Western alliance. China's long-term strategy to compete with the U.S. rests on the critical assumption that America's European allies will stay neutral in the U.S.-China rivalry. But Western solidarity in responding to Russia's invasion of Ukraine has called this assumption into question. If anything, the EU will from now on move closer to the U.S. on China-related issues because its members are now more beholden to the U.S. and have a greater appreciation of American power in maintaining peace and security in Europe. European countries may force Beijing to pay a price for its new strategic alignment with Russia.

The inevitable fallout of the solidifying Western alliance for China is accelerated economic decoupling. Rising opposition to globalization, the U.S.-China trade war, and the pandemic have already persuaded many in the West to relocate China-based supply chains. Russia's invasion of Ukraine will only speed up implementation.

Before Putin ordered Russian troops into Ukraine, China's strategy was to play the long game in its rivalry with the U.S., under the assumption that the current international order would allow it to gain strength over time and tilt the balance of power in its favor.

Now that Ukraine is engulfed in war, we will see whether China can avoid becoming collateral damage itself.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Nobody wins in a nuclear war

Here's a tip for Russian President Putin. In the event of a nuclear war, NOBODY WINS! Come to your senses and leave Ukraine alone!

Herb Stark
Mooresville, NC

WHITE

From Page 8

the propaganda. The hope is that disaffected young white people, perhaps already nervous or angry at changes in society that they believe have diminished their power, might be nudged to take the next step and join white supremacist or antisemitic organizations and participate in their events (which are also growing more numerous and frequent).

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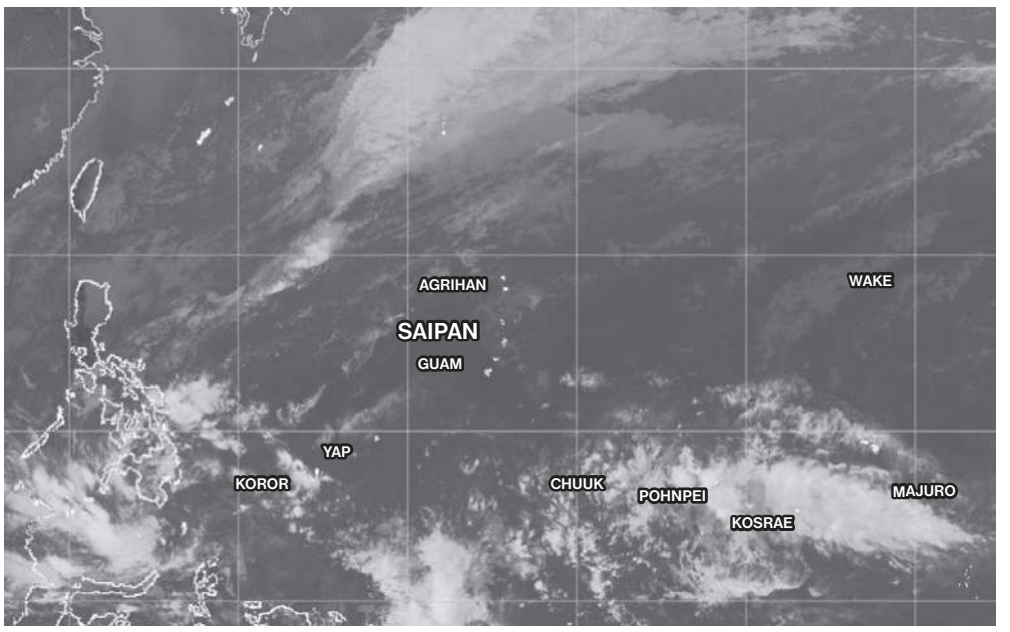
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

FRIDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
artly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds around 10 mph	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms	Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.
85° 77°	86° 75	85° 76°	86° 75°	85° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:54 AM, TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate trade winds prevail in the Marianas, bringing partly cloudy skies and drier conditions today. Ipan buoy indicates seas around 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	30 / 24 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	28 / 24 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	29 / 27 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:29 AM	18:26 PM
Thursday	06:28 AM	18:26 PM
Friday	06:27 AM	18:26 PM
Saturday	06:27 AM	18:26 PM
Sunday	06:26 AM	18:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:49	-	-
Thursday	10:49	00:05 PM	11:33
Friday	-	00:57 PM	12:20
Saturday	-	01:49 PM	13:10
Sunday	-	02:39 PM	14:02

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	25 / 18 °F
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	19 / 3°F
Hong Kong	Sunny	21 / 16 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	27 / 21 °F
London	Mostly Sunny	28 / 21°F
Los Angeles	Sunny	21 / 8 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	33 / 25 °F
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	20 / 14 °F
Miami	Mostly Sunny	27 / 4 °F
New York	Rain/Snow	9 / 2 °F
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	12 / 2 °F
Paris	Partly Cloudy	14 / 4 °F
Busan	Sunny	15 / 6 °F
Rome	Sunny	15 / 0 °F
Salem	Thunderstorms	18 / 10 °F
San Francisco	Sunny	16 / 9 °F
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	15 / -1 °F
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	13 / 4 °F
Washington, DC	Rain	6 / 1 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:44 AM	High Tide	1.39
05:59 AM	Low Tide	0.97
11:20 AM	High Tide	1.55
6:52 PM	Low Tide	0.18

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1, 3, 5
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3406	3:10PM	6:55PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA116	8:00am	8:46am	7
UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	2, 4, 7
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:55pm	8:46am+1	6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3405	8:30AM	2:10PM	Every 4 days (Jan 29-Mar 30)
TW9307	9:00AM	Q2:30PM	4, 7
OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX622	8:00AM	1:10PM	7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

US gasoline prices rise again on talk of banning Russian oil

By DAVID KOENIG
AP BUSINESS WRITER

AP

Gas prices are seen in front of a billboard advertising HBO's Last Week Tonight in Los Angeles, Monday, March 7, 2022.

Gasoline prices are pushing even farther above $4 a gallon, the highest price that American motorists have faced since July 2008, as calls grow to ban imports of Russian oil.

Prices at the pump were rising long before Russia invaded Ukraine and have spiraled faster since the start of the war. The U.S. national average for a gallon of gasoline has soared 45 cents a gallon in the past week and topped $4.06 on Monday, according to auto club AAA.

"I am looking at the possibility of walking to work," said Asiya Joseph, who had just paid $4.29 a gallon at a BP station in Brooklyn, New York. "This is the first time that I am filling up my tank in like, 10 days."

In Huntington Beach, California, Julian Mesa earns $15 an hour cleaning offices. On Monday, he paid $92 to fill his pickup at $5.79 a gallon.

"It's very expensive, high for people who are earning the minimum," Mesa said. His family had already scaled back on eating out to cut their spending during the pandemic.

The price of regular broke $4 a gallon on Sunday for the first time in nearly 14 years and is now up nearly 50% from a year ago.

The price is even higher in Europe, averaging 1.75 euros per liter last week, according to the European Commission, the equivalent of $7.21 per gallon.

GasBuddy, which tracks prices down to the service-station level, said Monday that the U.S. was likely to break its record price of $4.10 a gallon, but that does not account for inflation. In today's terms, the record price would be equal to about $5.24 after accounting for inflation.

"Forget the $4 per gallon mark, the nation will soon set new all-time record highs and we could push closer to a national average of $4.50," said GasBuddy analyst Patrick De Haan. "We've never been in this situation before, with this level of uncertainty. ... Americans will be feeling the pain of the rise in prices for quite some time."

Energy prices are contributing to the worst inflation that Americans have seen in 40 years, far outpacing higher wages. Consumer prices jumped 7.5% in January, compared with a year earlier, and analysts predict a 7.9% increase when the government reports February figures later this week.

Oil prices soared early Monday before retreating. Benchmark U.S. crude surged to $130 a barrel overnight, then moderated to around $119, a 3% gain, in afternoon trading. The international price skyrocketed to $139 before falling back to about $123 a barrel. U.S. stocks tumbled, with the S&P 500 falling 3%, its biggest drop in 16 months.

Crude prices plummeted in early 2020 as economies around the world shut down because of COVID-19—the price of futures even turned negative, meaning some sellers were paying buyers to take oil. Prices rebounded, however, as demand recovered faster than producers pulled oil out of the ground and inventories dried up.

Still, few forecasters saw this week's surge coming. Just a month ago, the Energy Department predicted oil would average around $80 a barrel this year. That was before Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

The United States is the world's largest oil producer—ahead of Saudi Arabia and Russia—but it is also the biggest oil consumer, and it can't meet that staggering demand with domestic crude alone.

The U.S. imported 245 million barrels of oil from Russia last year—about 8% of all U.S. oil imports—up from 198 million barrels in 2020. That's less than the U.S. gets from Canada or Mexico but more than it imported last year from Saudi Arabia.

The increasingly violent Russian attack on Ukraine has raised calls to cut off Russia from the money it gets from oil and natural gas exports. Europe is heavily dependent on Russian gas.

How to put your tax refund to work for you

By KIMBERLY PALMER
NERDWALLET

AP

A box filled with dollar bills is shown in New York, Wednesday, April 3, 2019.

If you're eagerly anticipating a tax refund in the coming weeks, you have good reason to be optimistic: The IRS reports that about 77% of tax returns filed last year generated a refund, and the average refund was $2,815.

Even though what can feel like a gift from the government is actually a delayed receipt of your own money, the best use of those funds is not always apparent. This year the question is even more fraught, with many households facing increasing financial pressure from inflation, rising interest rates and expiring government assistance programs tied to the pandemic. Advance child tax credits, for example, which offered families monthly checks based on their income and number of dependents, have ended pending further congressional action.

"For many people, the advance child tax credits became a part of their budget, so you should consider saving your tax refund and using it to supplement your monthly budget going forward," says Tommy Blackburn, a certified financial planner in Newport News, Virginia. "That can help with monthly cash flow," he adds.

Another option is to adjust your withholding to every paycheck so you don't pay more tax than you need to. But, Blackburn adds, some people prefer to receive a lump sum each year as a method of forced savings.

While your refund priorities depend on your particular situation, there's room in almost every budget to spend at least some portion of your refund check on something fun, too. Here is a road map to help you decide what you should do with the money:

Save for the next emergency

"First, think about your near-term security," suggests Vince Shorb, CEO of the Las Vegas-based National Financial Educators Council , which supports financial wellness educators. "There are a lot of things going on, from COVID to inflation. I want to make sure people have food on the table and gas to get to work," in the event of an emergency like job loss or unexpected expense, he says. That means putting money into an emergency savings fund before any other priority, including paying off debt.

"With inflation, you want to save a little bit more than normal to plan for those crazy gas and food prices. We don't know what will happen next," says Scott Alan Turner, a CFP in Aledo, Texas. While financial experts often cite the goal of having three to six months of expenses tucked away, a more realistic goal can be saving $500 to $1,000, or at least half of your refund. Given rising prices, Turner says it's better to save more if you can.

"If your industry is shrinking, you'll need a larger emergency fund," Shorb says, because it could take longer to find a new job if you lost your current one.

Unload high-interest debt

With interest rates widely expected to rise this year, credit card and other variable-rate debt would likely become more expensive, which makes using refund money to pay it off a smart move, says Mike Biggica, a CFP in San Francisco. He suggests paying off any debt that carries an interest rate of 6% or higher and also focusing on student loans, medical debt and anything else that carries a variable rate.

Maggie Klokkenga, a financial coach and CFP in Morton, Illinois, suggests using an online debt calculator to see how making extra debt payments can speed up the debt payoff process. That can help you decide whether to first pay off your smallest debts or larger, high-interest ones. "You can see how quickly you can have everything paid off," she says.

Make room for other goals, too

If you already have your emergency fund and high-interest rate debt addressed, then Klokkenga suggests putting the refund cash in high-yield online savings accounts dedicated to different goals, such as a vacation to Cabo or retirement. "When it's not in your checking account, it's harder to get to and gives you a pause before you can get the money," she says.

Increasing your contributions to existing retirement accounts such as a 401(k) is another solid option, Biggica says. "For folks who are not already maxing out their 401(k), that increase in contribution makes them feel more secure and responsible."

In some cases, you can front-load your contributions, Biggica adds, which means you reach the annual contribution limit before the end of the year. As a result, your take-home pay will be higher by November or December, which offers flexibility to pay for end-of-year costs like holiday spending.

Splurge within limits

After taking care of emergency savings and debt payments, there might not be enough left from the refund to make a huge purchase like a car, but Turner suggests squeezing in something enjoyable. "Go out and celebrate with something frivolous and entertaining: a nice steak dinner, new designer jeans, concert tickets," he suggests. His guideline: Plan to spend about 10% on fun. For the average refund recipient based on last year's IRS numbers, that's about $280.

It probably won't fund a vacation, but it could significantly glow-up your weekend plans.

Nation

Mother says 4 of 7 killed in Iowa tornadoes from same family

By JOSH FUNK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Four of the seven people killed in devastating storms that tore through central Iowa were members of the same family who were huddled together in the pantry of a home that was razed by a powerful tornado, authorities said.

Two children, their father and their grandmother all died Saturday when a tornado hit the grandparents' home near rural Winterset that didn't have a basement. Family members said the children's mother, 8-year-old brother, grandfather and uncle survived the storm, but they were injured.

The children and their parents, from Blue Springs, Missouri, were visiting their grandmother, Melissa Bazley, 63, when the tornado hit. The storm killed Bazley, 37-year-old Michael Bolger and two of his three young children, 5-year-old Kinlee Bolger and 2-year-old Owen Bolger.

AP

Cleanup efforts are underway in Winterset, Iowa, on Sunday, March 6, 2022, after a tornado tore through an area southwest of town on Saturday.

A GoFundMe page for the family says Kuri Bolger, who is the children's mother and Bazley's daughter, was hospitalized after being seriously injured. Lynn Larson said her daughter-in-law, Kuri Bolger, underwent surgery on her leg Monday and faces another surgery on her arm to repair broken bones. Her oldest grandson was treated at the hospital and released.

Larson said she and the rest of her family are "just devastated."

"I just can't describe how wonderful Mike was. Everybody loved him," Larson said. "It just rips your heart out. My grandchildren were wonderful. They were just the light of my life."

Two others killed in the tornado—Rodney Clark, 64, and Cecilia Lloyd, 72—lived in homes just down the street from Bazley that were also hit by the tornado. It was rated an EF-4, with peak winds of 170 mph (274 kph), the National Weather Service said Monday. The tornado was on the ground for nearly 70 miles (113 kilometers), leaving the longest path of destruction since a 1984 tornado that carved a path 117 miles (188 kilometers) long.

The seventh death came from Lucas County, about 54 miles (87 kilometers) southeast of Des Moines, when a separate tornado struck less than an hour later, injuring several other people. Officials there said Monday that Jesse Theron Fisher, 40, of Chariton, Iowa, died in the storm and another area resident remained hospitalized. The state Department of Natural Resources said that Fisher was in an RV at a campground at Red Haw State Park near Chariton when the storm struck.

ACROSS THE NATION

1 teen dead, 2 wounded in shooting outside Iowa high school

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—One teenager was killed and two others were critically wounded Monday after gunfire that appeared to come from a passing vehicle struck them outside an Iowa school, authorities said. Des Moines police said in a news release that potential suspects have been detained in the shooting on the grounds of East High School, near Des Moines' downtown, about a half mile, from the Capitol. No charges were immediately filed. Sgt. Paul Parizek told KCCI-TV that calls started pouring in around 2:50 p.m., shortly before classes were scheduled to dismiss for the day. Police didn't identify those shot but said a 15-year-old male had died. He was not a student at East. The other two shot were females aged 16 and 18, who both attend East. They were hospitalized in critical condition.

Brilliant Star School

Global Understanding • Service to Humanity • Exemplary Character • Creative Minds

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION/TITLE: Principal/Head of School
OPENING DATE: March 1, 2022
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Until Filled

NATURE OF WORK:
The primary role of the Principal is to articulate the vision and mission of the school, provide academic leadership, take leadership in the admissions and recruitment process, build community among students and families: recruit and coach faculty members and staff, oversee the financial health of the school, serve as the school's primary spokesperson to the larger community, and lead the process of internal self-evaluation and long-term planning. The activities of the Principal are guided by the Board of Trustees.

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SALARY/BENEFITS:
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Man pleads guilty to killing 2 at Nebraska restaurant

BELLEVUE, Neb. (AP)—A man pleaded guilty Monday to killing two workers and injuring two others at a Nebraska fast-food restaurant last fall. Roberto Silva Jr. pleaded guilty to all charges related to the Nov. 21, 2021, shooting at a Sonic Drive-in restaurant in the Omaha suburb of Bellevue, the Sarpy County attorney said in a news release. The plea means Silva's case won't go to trial but Sarpy County Attorney Lee Polikov said he still plans to seek the death penalty. Silva faced numerous charges, including two counts of first-degree murder, two counts of attempted murder and arson. He was accused of setting fire to a U-Haul truck that he had driven to the Sonic Drive-in and then shooting into the restaurant. When officers arrived at the restaurant, they found the U-Haul ablaze and four victims in the business.

Minneapolis teachers set to walk off job Tuesday

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—Teachers in the Minneapolis School District were set to walk off the job on Tuesday in a dispute over wages, class sizes and mental health support for students, at least temporarily pausing classes for about 29,000 students in one of Minnesota's largest school districts. Union members said they could not reach agreement on wages, especially a "living wage" for education support professionals, as well as caps on class sizes and more mental health services for students. "We are going on strike... for the safe and stable schools our students deserve," Greta Cunningham, president of the teachers' chapter of the Minneapolis Federation of Teachers. The school district called the news "disappointing" but pledged to "remain at the mediation table non-stop in an effort to reduce the length and impact of this strike."

Online university fined $22M for misleading students

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A California judge has ordered an online, for-profit university and its former parent company to pay $22 million in penalties, saying they mislead students about the costs of their education, among other things, the state's attorney general announced Monday. The San Diego Superior Court ruled in favor of the state of California in its 2017 lawsuit against Ashford University and and its then-parent company Zovio, Inc. The University of Arizona has since acquired the university and rebranded the online school, the University of Arizona Global Campus. It is an independent university that is operated in affiliation with the University of Arizona. "Ashford made false promises to students about the value of an Ashford degree, leaving students with mounting debt, broken promises, and searching for a job," California Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a statement announcing the ruling. "While we can't turn back the clock for these students, this decision should send a strong message: If you engage in deceptive practices in order to pad your bottom line, my office will hold you accountable."

Florida to recommend against COVID vaccines for healthy kids

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo said Monday that the state will formally recommend against COVID-19 vaccinations for healthy children. Ladapo made the announcement at a roundtable event organized by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis that featured a group of doctors who criticized coronavirus lockdowns and mandate policies. The new guidance would run counter to recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that all children ages 5 to 7 should be vaccinated. Although children are generally less likely than adults to become severely ill with COVID-19, public health experts have underlined that vaccines further reduce their risk and help prevent them from infecting others. It was not immediately clear when the state would release its health guidance, and Ladapo didn't elaborate on the details"The Florida Department of Health is going to be the first state to officially recommend against the COVID-19 vaccines for healthy children," Ladapo said at the end of the roundtable discussion.

Asia

US and 10 countries condemn North Korean missile launch

AP

People watch a TV reporting North Korea's missile launch during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Saturday, March 5, 2022.

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United States and 10 other countries on Monday condemned North Korea's latest ballistic missile launch and urged the U.N. Security Council to respond, saying its inaction erodes the credibility of the U.N.'s most powerful body and undermines global efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield read a statement from the 11 countries after a closed Security Council briefing on North Korea's 11th ballistic missile launch since the beginning of the year on Saturday, which was detected by its neighbors. Experts say the launches are an attempt to add new weapons systems to the North's arsenal and pressure the United States into making concessions amid stalled diplomacy.

The 11 countries—Albania, Australia, Brazil, France, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, United Kingdom and United States—said they remain committed "to seeking serious and sustained diplomacy" with Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the country's official name.

They said the United States and others have repeatedly offered dialogue without preconditions. But they said the DPRK has chosen to increase its ballistic missile launches in violation of Security Council resolutions and international law, "instead of embarking on a path of diplomacy and de-escalation."

The 11 countries called on all 15 Security Council members "to speak with one voice in condemning these dangerous and unlawful acts."

Thomas-Greenfield responded to a question asking about the failure of veto-wielding council members China and Russia to support the statement. "We would love to have had China and Russia join us in this group," she said.

The Security Council initially imposed sanctions on North Korea after its first nuclear test in 2006 and toughened them after further nuclear tests and launches from its increasingly sophisticated ballistic missile program.

Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said in 2018 that the sanctions had cut off all North Korean exports and 90% of its trade and disbanded the pool of workers which North Korea sent abroad to earn hard currency, though experts monitoring sanctions say Pyongyang continues to evade the measures.

China seeing new surge in COVID-19 cases

BEIJING (AP)—China is seeing a new surge in COVID-19 cases across the vast country, despite its draconian "zero tolerance" approach to dealing with outbreaks.

The mainland on Monday reported 214 new cases of infection over the previous 24 hours, with the most, 69, in the southern province of Guangdong bordering on Hong Kong, which has been recording tens of thousands of cases per day.

Another 54 cases were reported in the Jilin province, more than 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) to the north, and 46 in the eastern province Shandong.

In his annual report to the national legislature Saturday, Premier Li Keqiang said China needs to "constantly refine epidemic containment" but gave no indication Beijing might ease the highly touted "zero tolerance" strategy.

Li called for accelerating vaccine development and "strengthening epidemic controls" in cities where travelers and goods arrive from abroad.

"Zero tolerance" requires quarantines and lockdowns on entire communities and sometimes even cities when as few as a handful of cases have been detected. Chinese officials credit the approach—along with a vaccination rate of more than 80%—with helping prevent a major nationwide outbreak, but critics say it is taking a major toll on the economy and preventing the population from building up natural immunity.

No new cases were reported in Beijing and the city was largely back to normal, although masks continue to be worn in public places indoors.

One area that continues to feel the effects of tight COVID-19 control is the religious sector. Three of Beijing's most famous Catholic churches, Buddhist temples and mosques stated Sunday they had been ordered closed in January with no date given on reopening.

Even before the pandemic, such institutions were under heavy pressure from the Communist authorities to follow through on demands from leader Xi Jinping that all religious centers be purged of outside influence, including the physical appearance of places of worship.

World

AP

People cross an improvised path under a destroyed bridge while fleeing the town of Irpin close to Kyiv, Ukraine, Monday, March 7, 2022.

Russia dangles prospect of safe corridors; Ukraine still skeptical

LVIV, Ukraine (AP)—Safe corridors intended to let Ukrainian civilians escape the Russian onslaught could open Tuesday, Kremlin officials said, though Ukrainian leaders greeted the plan with skepticism since prior efforts to establish evacuation routes crumbled over the weekend amid renewed attacks.

With the invasion well into its second week, Russian troops were making significant advances in southern Ukraine but stalled in some other regions. Soldiers and volunteers fortified the capital, Kyiv, with hundreds of checkpoints and barricades designed to thwart a takeover. A steady rain of shells and rockets fell on other population centers, including the Kyiv suburb of Bucha, where the mayor reported heavy artillery fire.

"We can't even gather up the bodies because the shelling from heavy weapons doesn't stop day or night," Mayor Anatol Fedoruk said. "Dogs are pulling apart the bodies on the city streets. It's a nightmare."

In one of the most desperate cities, the encircled southern port of Mariupol, an estimated 200,000 people—nearly half the population of 430,000—were hoping to flee, and Red Cross officials waited to hear when a corridor would be established.

Russia's chief negotiator said he expected the corridors to be in use on Tuesday. The Russian U.N. ambassador forecast a potential cease-fire for the morning and appeared to suggest that humanitarian paths leading away from Kyiv and other cities could give people choice in where they want to go—a change from previous proposals that offered only destinations in Russia or Belarus.

But doubts abounded, fueled by the failure of previous attempts to lead civilians to safety amid the biggest ground war in Europe since World War II. The office of embattled Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy would not comment on the latest Russian proposal, saying only that Moscow's plans can be believed only if a safe evacuation begins.

Demands for effective passageways have surged amid intensifying shelling by Russian forces. The steady bombardments, including in some of Ukraine's most populated regions, have yielded a humanitarian crisis of diminishing food, water and medical supplies.

Puerto Rico to lift mask mandate as cases ease

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Puerto Rico's governor announced Monday that he is ending a requirement for mask use indoors for the second time since the pandemic began as the number of cases and hospitalizations ease.

The change will take effect Thursday with a few exceptions. Face masks will still be required in health facilities and nursing homes.

In addition, starting March 10, domestic travelers will no longer have to present proof of vaccination or a negative coronavirus test or fill out a currently required form.

Gov. Pedro Pierluisi also will lift all capacity restrictions at public and private businesses and said proof of vaccination to enter will no longer be required. He added that vaccination requirements for people including public school students, restaurant employees and health workers will be lifted.

Puerto Rico's Scientific Coalition, a group of experts appointed by the governor to advise him during the pandemic, said it agreed with some of the measures announced but said the vaccine mandates for certain groups and proof of vaccination for events of 1,000 people or more should be kept in place.

It also advised that masks should be worn in enclosed places that serve the public such as airports, buses and others.

"We're still facing uncertain scenarios in the context of variants," said Dr. Iris Cardona, a coalition member.

The U.S. territory of 3.2 million people has reported a 4% positivity rate, a significant drop from the nearly 40% reported during the holiday season.

Pierluisi said more than 95% of people in Puerto Rico have received a first vaccine dose, 86% a second dose, and more than 50% a booster shot.

The island has reported more than 267,000 confirmed coronavirus cases and more than 4,000 deaths from COVID-19.

Good Housekeeping

(SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS)
Black architectural elements dominate this modern living space.

Go bold with BLACK

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

When is it appropriate to use black in home decor? Once considered harsh, black is now more popular than ever and is often the go-to color for those looking for an elegant, upscale vibe. Black offers the opportunity to infuse a bold and luxurious look into nearly any space. When using black, there are some top tips to keep in mind.

DO'S

1. Do use black in social areas such as living rooms, family rooms and even dining spaces.
2. Do pair black with other neutral colors such as cream, blue and even brown.
3. Do incorporate black as an element to help ground spaces that may be overly bright.
4. Do use black as a cabinetry choice. Black cabinets are a popular designer choice for both kitchens and bathrooms.
5. Do use black on large areas such as upholstery, artwork and area rugs.

DON'TS

1. Don't be afraid to use black in unexpected areas such as children's bedrooms or small spaces such as bathrooms.
2. Don't be afraid to be daring. Look for ways to use black in bold, unexpected ways.
3. Don't worry about pairing black with other dark colors such as indigo blue or deep chocolate brown.
4. Don't avoid using black as an accent color. Black makes a great accent when looking to create a sense of contrast.
5. Don't overlook the opportunity to use black on architectural elements such as baseboards, moldings and banisters.

Gretchen's table: A garlicky tofu stir-fry that brings the heat

By GRETCHEN MCKAY
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
(TNS)

GRETCHEN MCKAY/PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/TNS
This quick and easy tofu stir-fry features colorful vegetables and a spicy chili garlic sauce.

Stir-fries can be a boon in a busy cook's kitchen—quick to prepare and incredibly versatile, they dish up a whole lot of flavor without a whole lot of fuss (though you may have to do some chopping).

Meats can generally be swapped out for vegan proteins like tofu or tempeh, and likewise with any vegetables you might include. If you don't like beans or carrots, for instance, peppers or broccoli are an easy substitute; the only rule is to make sure you add hard vegetables to the pan before quick-cooking ones so they're crisp and tender at the same time.

This recipe pairs tofu with crispy, pan-fried mushrooms, celery and paper-thin slices of ginger in a sauce infused with chili pepper—a welcome punch of gentle heat on a chilly winter day.

Extra-firm tofu (or firm, if you can't find that) works best in this dish, because it will keep its shape during frying; soft or silken tofu will fall apart. Also be sure to press as much water as you can out of the block before cooking it by pressing it between two layers of folded paper towels or a clean kitchen cloth.

I like the spicy, garlicky kick of chili oil with crunchy garlic, but it's completely optional if you're not a fan—if you omit, simply add a little more soy sauce to get a good glaze on the tofu. If you use gluten-free soy sauce, the dish will appeal to those with gluten sensitivities or allergies as well.

Serve with white or brown rice. For lunch the next day, I reheated the leftovers in a cast-iron skillet in a 350-degree oven until the tofu and veggies crisped up, about 10 minutes.

■■■

STIR-FRIED TOFU WITH CRISPY GARLIC CHILI

PG tested

1 14-ounce block extra-firm tofu, drained and pressed

3 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided

12 ounces baby bella or button white mushrooms, stems trimmed, cut into thick slices

3 celery stalks, thinly sliced on a diagonal

2-inch piece ginger, peeled, thinly sliced

1 jalapeño chile, thinly sliced

2 green onions, sliced on the diagonal

1 tablespoon soy sauce

1 tablespoon crunchy garlic with chili oil, or more to taste

1 teaspoon toasted sesame oil

Juice of 1 lime

Handful coarsely chopped cilantro

4 cups cooked short-grain or brown rice, for serving

Cut block of tofu into thirds crosswise, then cut each piece crosswise again, and then into 1/2-inch pieces. Pat dry with paper towels.

Heat 2 tablespoons vegetable oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium-high. When oil is shimmering and easily slides across surface of pan, carefully add tofu in a single layer and cook, undisturbed, until golden brown underneath, about 4-5 minutes. Flip each piece over and continue to cook until browned on second side, another 4 minutes. Transfer tofu to a plate, leaving oil in pan.

Pour remaining 1 tablespoon vegetable oil into skillet and heat over medium-high until shimmering. Add mushrooms to pan and cook, undisturbed, until crisp around the edges and browned underneath, about 5 minutes. Give mushrooms a toss and continue to cook, tossing often, until browned and crispy in most spots, about 4 minutes longer.

Add fried tofu, celery, ginger, chile, green onion, soy sauce, crunchy garlic and sesame oil to pan. Cook, tossing often, until celery is crisp-tender, about 3 minutes.

Remove from heat and add lime juice. Scatter cilantro over and toss once more.

Serve over or alongside cooked brown or white rice.

Serves 4.

■ Adapted from bonappetit.com

NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JOANN DERSON
(C) 2022 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

■ Lettuce will last longer if you store it in the crisper drawer in a clean paper bag.

■ "Try using an empty glass wine bottle (remove the label) for rolling out pie crust or any dough. It is the best thing I've ever used ... nothing sticks to the glass, unlike my wooden rolling pin, which is now in the back of my cabinet for good after using it for decades!" -- L.F. in Texas

■ Peas, spinach, sweet potato, squash and carrots can be pureed and added to baked goods to increase fiber and nutrients. They are especially useful in soups to thicken a broth without adding fat. You can sneak some veggies into unexpected places, too -- like cookies, pancake batter and pasta dishes, or make a flavorful sandwich spread.

■ "When you get a new pair of running shoes, treat the insides with spray starch. We have always done this, and it keeps them fresher longer." -- S.M. in Indiana

■ Tubes make it easy to access toothpaste when they are full, but it's sometimes hard to get that last bit out. Here's a tip from C.W. in Oregon: "To get the last bit of a tube of toothpaste to come out, run the tube under warm water for a few seconds. There's more still in there than you think!"

■ It's easy to sort hardware using a muffin pan. If you get a pan that has 12 depressions, you can line up nails and screws and such according to size, making it even more convenient.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Life & Style

Morgan Wallen wins at ACM Awards; Lambert wins top prize

By ANDREW DALTON
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Morgan Wallen won album of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards on Monday night for "Dangerous: The Double Album," a year after he was removed from the ACMs ballot after he was caught on camera using a racial slur.

Wallen made no direct reference to the incident or his absence from recent awards shows while accepting the trophy at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, but may have dropped a hint about it.

"To my son, this award will signify that his daddy was a fighter," Wallen said, finishing his speech by enthusiastically thanking the fans in attendance.

Miranda Lambert took home the night's top prize, entertainer of the year, for the first time after losing out in five previous years, but was not in Las Vegas to accept it.

"I cannot believe I'm not there to celebrate," Lambert said in a video message from London, "it's the first time I've missed the ACMs in 17 years. I've been waiting a long time for this"

Carly Pearce won best female artists and Chris Stapleton won best male artist over Wallen, who took no other awards Monday night after being nominated for three.

Wallen was among the few winners who did not perform on the show.

Jason Aldean and Carrie Underwood won single of the year for their duet "If I Didn't Love You," while Lainey Wilson won song of the year for "Things a Man Oughta Know." The artists later performed the songs live in a show that was heavy on performances.

The show, streamed live on Amazon Prime Video, tried to evoke a party atmosphere while paying tribute to tragedies both global and local.

As Old Dominion took the stage to claim its fifth straight ACM Award for best group, lead singer Matthew Ramsey said he was glad host Dolly Parton had opened the show by dedicating the night to Ukraine amid the Russian invasion.

"I was feeling a little bit strange because we're in this beautiful bubble," Ramsey said. "Every person here have fought for their dreams, but there are people out there fighting for their lives."

Aldean, who was performing at a nearby music festival on the Las Vegas Strip in 2017 when a 64-year man opened fire and killed 60 people, said he still couldn't believe the moment happened as he introduced Stapleton.

Stapleton performed his angry song about the shooting, "Watch You Burn."

"Only a coward would pick up a gun, and shoot up a crowd trying to have fun," Stapleton sang.

Otherwise, the show did its best to be lighthearted fun.

Parton opened the show by taking the stage at he indoor stadium in a jumpsuit that appeared to be covered in sparkling shards of glass.

"A disco ball just fell right on me," Parton said. "I'm just hoping that nothing punctures me."

Then came the first of several long blocks of performances—including one 35 minutes long—in a ceremony that seeks to emphasize the music and a concert-like atmosphere.

Parton's co-hosts Jimmie Allen and Gabby Barrett celebrated the show's return to its usual home city after two years in Nashville. They sang Elvis Presley's classic "Viva Las Vegas" and Faith Hill's "Let's Go to Vegas."

They were followed by medleys from Eric Church and Walker Hayes, who started his performance deep in the stadium stands, dressed as casually as the folks in the cheap seats as he sang his viral hit about a date at Applebee's, "Fancy Like."

Brothers Osborne broke a three-year winning streak by Dan + Shay to take best duo, the first trophy handed out during the show.

Luke Bryan sang his ballad "Up," then performed his hit duet "Buy Dirt" with Jordan Davis and performance of his ballad "Up." Other performers included Kane Brown, Maren Morris, Thomas Rhett, Blanco Brown, Brooke Eden, Ashley McBryde and BRELAND.

As the show drew to a close, Kelly Clarkson performed "I Will Always Love You," first written and recorded by Parton, in tribute to the host.

"I love you Dolly Parton!" Clarkson screamed as Parton stepped out to present the entertainer of the year award.

After reading Lambert's name, Parton said, "I have always loved her." She also said she thought the late Whitney Houston, who brought the song renewed fame in the 1990s, would approve of Clarkson's soaring rendition.

Brothers Osborne and Brittney Spencer closed the show with a performance of Nancy Sinatra's "These Boots Are Made for Walking."

Drawn by the ACM's reputation for having a fun, inviting and inclusive atmosphere, Amazon sought to go beyond the live sporting events it has previously aired to connect that with a large audience of country fans who listen to Amazon Music.

The show attempted to have a sporting look, with three stages, overhead spider cameras, non-stop action and heavy on graphics.

It was touted as commercial-free, but there were breaks to promote Amazon's original movies and television series.

In one moment of promotional synergy, author James Patterson introduced a performance by Parton and Kelsea Ballerini.

Patterson and Parton co-authored a novel, "Run, Rose, Run," that debuted for sale on Amazon on Monday. Parton and Ballerini performed a duet from the companion album, available on Amazon Music, while Ballerini performs the role of the title character in the audiobook on Amazon's Audible.com.

AP

Morgan Wallen accepts the award for album of the year for "Dangerous: The Double Album" at the 57th Academy of Country Music Awards on Monday, March 7, 2022, at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas.

Dizzee Rascal convicted of assault, then smashes camera

LONDON (AP)—British rapper Dizzee Rascal was convicted Monday of assaulting his former girlfriend, then smashed a press photographer's camera outside the courthouse minutes after a jury found him guilty.

The 37-year-old musician, whose full name is Dylan Kwabena Mills, had denied headbutting Cassandra Jones at a home in south London in June.

Prosecutors said he pressed his forehead against hers and pushing her to the ground during a "chaotic" argument that began over custody arrangements for their two children.

When police, called by neighbors, arrived, Mills said "I'm the aggressor," but later gave a prepared statement in a police interview, denying the allegations and claiming Jones had assaulted him.

After the guilty verdict, Mills left Wimbledon Magistrates' Court, grabbed a camera from Press Association photographer James Manning and threw if across the street, before walking away.

Dizzee Rascal released his debut album, "Boy in Da Corner," in 2003 and was among the first breakout stars from the distinctly British genre of hip-hop known as grime. His hits include "Bonkers" and "Dance Wiv Me."

He is due to be sentenced for assault on April 8.

Mother eager to reveal truth of son's parentage

DEAR ABBY: Thirty-two years ago I was seeing two different men. I slept with each of them in the same week and became pregnant. I told them midway through the pregnancy that the baby might be theirs. One ditched me. I never heard from him again. The other is my husband of 31 years. We went on to have two more children. I have suspected all along that my oldest son, "Todd," wasn't my husband's biological child. When Todd was 8, we did a DNA test, and I was right.

Todd was recently married. I asked him several times before the wedding to tell his future wife his birth story. Todd was adamant in his refusal. He has no interest in meeting his biological father or having a relationship with him. My husband is his dad —period.

I feel guilty for not sharing the truth with Todd's wife when she asks me questions. She knows Todd was born before my husband and I were married. Todd says it's his decision and "it's not a big deal." I disagree. Should I tell her the truth? If I do, I risk upsetting my son and maybe their marriage. They will have kids in the future, and I think she should know. What do you think I should do?

KNOWS THE WHOLE STORY

DEAR KNOWS: You have advised Todd, and he has refused. Respect his decision. Do NOT go behind his back and divulge this information to his wife or you may damage beyond repair the relationship you have with your son.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 24-year-old male. I've been seeing this guy, "Kurt," for four years. He moved to New York to be with me. He's 17 years older than I am. At first, it was great. We were amazing together. Then we hit some rough patches.

When I went to meet his family in the Midwest, they treated me horribly. My dad was ill, so I came back home. Kurt let me drive the 18 hours by myself, which infuriated me. I want him back, and I'm also scared to be alone. I have talked to other men online and searched for the love and companionship I no longer have with Kurt. We don't do anything together anymore, and our relationship has been failing for a long time.

How do I tell him I want out of the relationship and think we lost our spark a long time ago? How do I get out of the rut I'm in because I'm scared to end the relationship?

LOST AND CONFUSED

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

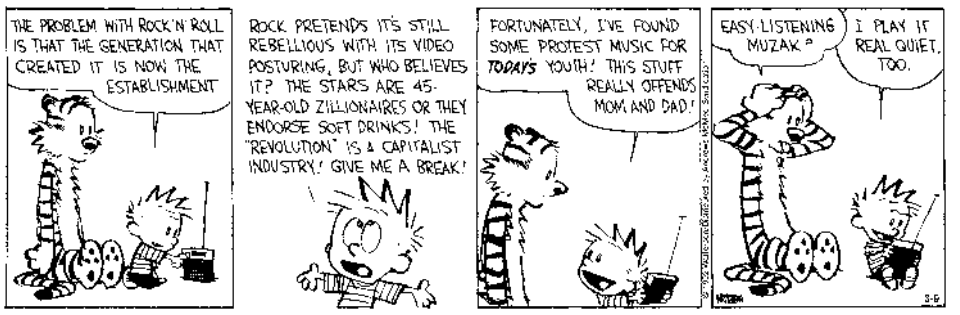
DEAR LOST AND CONFUSED: At 24, your chances of finding love again are probably better than your 40-year-old partner's. I don't know how long you have been living in the rut you described, but life is short. Do not waste more time than you already have on Kurt, who may be as relieved as you to see this romance come to an end.

Break the news by telling him calmly that you feel your relationship has been failing for a long time, the spark fizzled out a long time ago and you are calling it quits. Follow it up by saying you hope you will always be "friends," and move on.

Pastimes

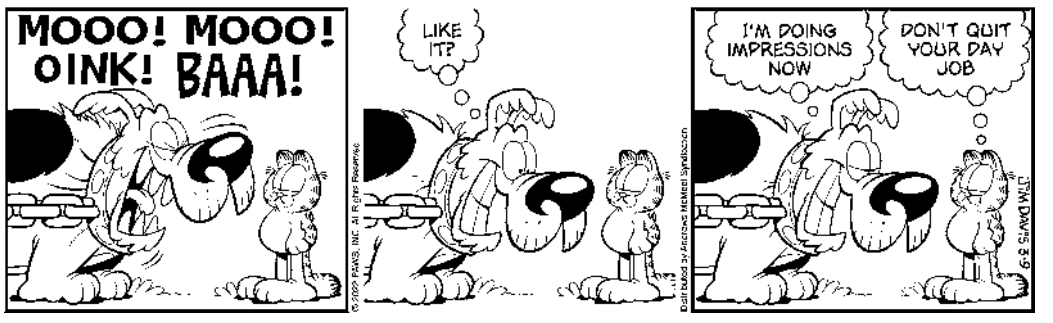
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THE PROBLEM WITH ROCK'N'ROLL IS THAT THE GENERATION THAT CREATED IT IS NOW THE ESTABLISHMENT
ROCK PRETENDS IT'S STILL REBELLIOUS WITH ITS VIDEO POSTURING, BUT WHO BELIEVES IT? THE STARS ARE 45-YEAR-OLD ZILLIONAIRES OR THEY ENDORSE SOFT DRINKS! THE "REVOLUTION" IS A CAPITALIST INDUSTRY! GIVE ME A BREAK!
FORTUNATELY, I'VE FOUND SOME PROTEST MUSIC FOR TODAY'S YOUTH! THIS STUFF REALLY OFFENDS MOM AND DAD!
EASY-LISTENING MUZAK
I PLAY IT REAL QUIET, TOO.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



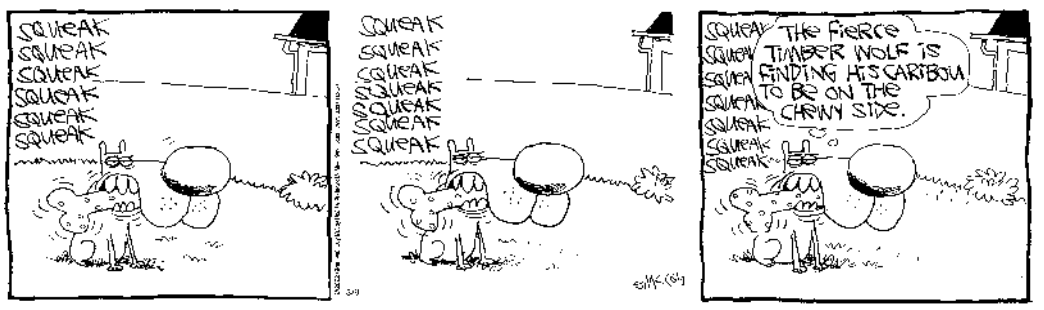
Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset

WOULD I LIKE TO WATCH EPISODE FIVE? OH YES I WOULD!
THIS WHOLE QUARANTINING THING ISN'T SO BAD.
I HAVE... GASP!! NO NO NO!
KATY! SLIDE MORE CHEETOS UNDER THE DOOR!
LIKE, ONE BY ONE, OR SHOULD I SMUSH THE BAG?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

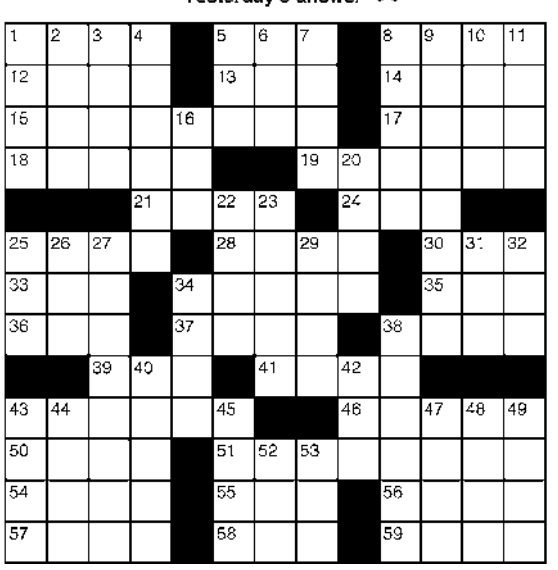
ACROSS
1 Freshens a lawn, say
5 Comic Schumer
8 Thin cut
12 Prayer ender
13 Dallas cager, for short
14 Viral phenomenon
15 Tart dessert
17 Greek vowels
18 "Survivor" team
19 Twitches
21 Karate level
24 Dadaist artist
25 Unsightly
28 "Exodus" author
30 Legislation
33 "The Matrix" hero
34 Scholastic hurdles
35 Football filler
36 "Lion" actor Patel
37 TV/radio host John
38 "Goodness!"
39 Superlative suffix
41 Pueblo people
43 Nasal partition
46 Justice Kagan
50 Tactic
51 Attorney's tablet
54 Peter Fonda role
55 Geese formation
56 Aachen article
57 GOP rivals
58 Under the weather
59 Some HDTVs

DOWN
1 Pretzel seasoning
2 Biblical grain measure
3 Ms. Moore
4 Stuck-up
5 Pump up the volume
6 Avril follower
7 Saint Laurent of fashion
8 Mascara mishap
9 "Game on!"
10 Mosque leader
11 Dick Tracy's love
16 Formerly called
20 Go by
22 Elegance
23 Dumpster filler
25 German conjunction
26 "Gosh!"
27 Verse in a valentine
29 Texter's "As I see it"
31 Goal
32 Like some humor
34 Words to a backstabber
38 Playwright Arthur
40 Eyelid woes
42 Green shade
43 Tater
44 "Legally Blonde" role
45 Roman 1056
47 Grand tale
48 "Peter Pan" dog
49 Fruit drinks
52 Snaky fish
53 Solidify

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	P	P	S		T	A	U		T	E	R	A
S	E	E		A	N	N		H	M	O	S	
M	I	N	C	E	H	I	E		H	I	P	S
			O	W	F		V	I	O	I	F	
S	T	O	N	E		L	E	D	A			
W	O	R	D		M	I	N	O	T	A	U	R
	R	A		T	O	A	L	L		C	R	O
M	I	N	I	S	T	R	Y		P	E	A	L
			T	A	O	S		L	A	D	L	E
L	A	M	A	R		K	I	T				
O	V	A	L		M	I	N	E	R	A	L	S
C	I	T	I		A	V	E		O	M	A	R
O	S	H	A		N	E	E		L	I	P	S

Yesterday's answer 3-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bow Wow, 35; Brittany Snow, 36; Matthew Gray Gubler, 42; Juliette Binoche, 58.

Happy Birthday: Pay attention to those who can help you get what you want, and nurture relationships that encourage and support your beliefs and efforts. Stick to the facts, and refuse to let emotions stand between you and the truth. Distance yourself from those who weigh you down and hold you back. Put your energy into changes that make a difference. Your numbers are 5, 18, 24, 29, 36, 45, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Call on reliable people, and you'll get things done quickly. Forming better relationships with individuals who share your concerns and work toward a similar goal will support more input and progress. Romance and self-improvement are featured. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Keep your head down, avoid confrontations, put more effort into physical changes that can help you advance. Be secretive about your plans until you are confident you can reach your goal. Don't let others' decisions disrupt your plans. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Work alone and avoid interference. Distance yourself from people wielding grandiose ideas with little to back the promises they make. Take a practical, intelligent approach to what you are trying to achieve, and you won't be disappointed. Self-improvement is favored. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Do it yourself if you want something done. Don't rely on others to come through for you. It's up to you to gather information and physically take control of whatever situation you face. Be the one to make things happen. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Take care of meaningful relationships. Listen, respond with compassion, be willing to compromise when necessary. How you treat others reflects how you expect others to treat you. Choose peace and love over discord. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Refuse to let your emotions get in the way of a good decision. Don't let uncertainty cause you to make an unnecessary move. Stand by and see what unfolds, and you'll find a convenient path that helps you excel. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Touch base with people who bring out the best in you and make you think. Network, socialize and discuss your intentions and plans. Personal and home improvements will brighten your day and encourage you to expand your interests and friendships. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Concentrate on something that motivates you to do things differently. Explore the possibilities, but stick to a budget you can afford. Emotional spending will set you back, not help you reach your goal. Take better care of your relationships, health and finances. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Disregard temptation. Discipline and practicality will take you where you want to go. Set your sights on personal goals and improvements that will lift your spirits. Share with someone you love, and turn your intentions into a reality. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't spend foolishly. You can't buy love or impress people with lavishness. Focus on the best way to ensure that you look and feel in tiptop shape. Confusion and uncertainty will lead to mistakes. Gather facts, then decide. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Spend more time with the ones you love in the comfort of your home. An upgrade will improve your lifestyle and encourage you to follow through with personal plans. Love and romance are on the rise. Share your intentions. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Nature walks and getting back to basics will expand your mind and encourage success. Knowing what you want and understanding how best to achieve peace of mind will help you map out a path that takes you where you want to go. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, energetic and helpful. You are capricious and fun-loving.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		5	9					
	3		7					
6				4				8
1	8	3			4	5	2	
		2						6
		6						1
		4	3	9	5	1	8	7
		1		8		9		4
		7		6		3		2

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	2	5	8	6	9	3	7	1
8	3	6	1	7	4	2	5	9
7	1	9	2	5	3	6	8	4
2	9	7	3	1	5	4	6	8
3	4	8	6	9	2	7	1	5
6	5	1	4	8	7	9	3	2
1	7	4	5	2	6	8	9	3
5	6	2	9	3	8	1	4	7
9	8	3	7	4	1	5	2	6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PLACED IN A GLASS JAR Solution: 9 letters

S	E	N	O	T	S	U	G	N	U	F	L	I	E	S
S	L	A	N	T	S	W	A	S	P	S	K	C	O	R
E	I	R	E	P	A	P	P	L	S	N	A	K	E	R
L	O	M	A	T	F	I	A	O	S	T	S	E	P	U
D	S	S	E	D	D	S	M	S	M	R	O	W	M	B
N	T	R	A	E	T	E	W	E	E	D	S	I	U	I
A	R	I	R	I	C	F	S	P	E	A	R	G	L	R
C	S	S	C	I	E	R	P	D	R	O	S	E	C	D
Y	T	I	R	R	O	O	T	S	E	N	I	W	H	S
S	E	T	N	E	H	G	F	L	I	E	E	R	E	B
E	K	S	O	S	W	S	M	O	L	D	S	E	E	A
V	C	M	S	M	E	O	B	O	T	T	L	E	S	M
O	I	A	A	S	A	C	L	A	E	S	T	B	E	B
L	R	J	M	E	A	T	T	F	P	L	A	N	T	O
G	C	R	A	F	T	S	O	S	E	V	I	L	O	O

© 2022 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 3/9

Ants, Bamboo, Beer, Beetle, Birds, Bottles, Bugs, Burrs, Candles, Cheese, Crafts, Crickets, Daisy, Flies, Flowers, Frogs, Fungus, Gloves, Grasshoppers, Insects, Jams, Mason, Meat, Mold, Moss, Mulch, Olives, Paper, Pasta, Pear, Pests, Plant, Plastic, Rice, Rocks, Roots, Rose, Seal, Seeds, Snake, Soil, Spiders, Stems, Stones, Tomato, Wasps, Water, Weeds, Wine, Worms

Yesterday's Answer: Jungles

Treasuries 24 through 41 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Spurs' Popovich ties Nelson for NBA career wins record

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Gregg Popovich tied Don Nelson's NBA record with his 1,335th career victory as a coach in the San Antonio Spurs' 117-110 win over the Los Angeles Lakers on Monday night.

Popovich chose to ignore the achievement, as he has many others during his illustrious 26-year tenure leading San Antonio. He didn't mention it to players after the victory, and he didn't take any questions about the record during a brief, three-question session with reporters after.

"You guys know Pop," San Antonio center Jakob Poeltl said. "I don't think he really cares about stuff like that. It didn't even really get mentioned. I doubt it will get mentioned when we get the next win. It's just how he is."

Popovich will try to pass Nelson when San Antonio hosts the Toronto Raptors on Wednesday night.

"It's hard to put into words how much of an impact he's had on the Spurs organization, USA Basketball and basketball in general," Spurs guard Josh Richardson said.

The only difference between this record-tying game and any previous was the 73-year-old Popovich's decision to get a little physical with players prior to the game.

"He was trying to get us to play a little bit more aggressive," Poeltl said. "In these last few games, we've been pretty soft on defense. Shootaround this morning was a little bit more intense. I think that was just him trying to get a message across. He was pushing guys around, and then it kind of ended up in a huddle mosh-pit situation."

San Antonio needed the jolt, even with the struggling Lakers without LeBron James.

The Spurs had lost four straight with Popovich on the precipice of matching the record, and they were in danger of extending that skid with a late collapse as James sat the game out with a sore left knee.

Dejounte Murray had 26 points and 10 rebounds, and Poeltl and Richardson each had 18 points. Richardson was making his first start with San Antonio.

Talen Horton-Taylor had 18 points to lead Los Angeles, and Russell Westbrook, Malik Monk and Carmelo Anthony added 17 points each.

Popovich has five NBA titles and is a lock for enshrinement in the NBA Hall of Fame after a career in which he's coached Spurs greats including David Robinson, Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Manu Ginobili. Robinson sat courtside Monday, and Popovich jokingly told him to check into the game during a time.

AP

San Antonio Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich signals to his players during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Lakers, Monday, March 7, 2022, in San Antonio.

These aren't the same Spurs from Robinson's prime. San Antonio is 25-40, already assured of a third straight losing season after 22 consecutive finishes over .500. Monday's game nearly got away, too.

The Lakers pulled within 108-105 on Horton-Taylor's jumper with 5:40 left, and the Spurs were scoreless for nearly four minutes before Poeltl's free throw with 37.4 seconds left. Los Angeles never got closer than three, though.

"The just played a little smarter than us down the stretch," LA guard Malik Monk said.

The Lakers were without James and Anthony Davis. James was a late scratch Monday after scoring a season-high 56 points Saturday in a victory over the Golden State Warriors.

Los Angeles had lost four straight and seven of eight prior to James' highest point total with the Lakers, which matched the third highest of his career.

"It's kind of frustrating that we have a great win like we did against Golden State and Lebron's knee is a little sore and he's got to miss and we take a little step back," Monk said. "We've got to do a better job and figure things out as a team when he's out."

It marked the eighth straight game that the Lakers have faced a double-digit deficit.

The Lakers remained in the game by cutting to the rim without the ball for open layups, drives to the basket and the Spurs' poor free-throw shooting. San Antonio was 16 for 30 on free throws, including 6 for 14 in the third quarter.

James has missed 17 games this season due to various injuries, including abdomen and ankle ailments. Los Angeles coach Frank Vogel is hopeful James will play Wednesday in Houston. Westbrook collected his third foul with 11:38 left in the first half. He finished with five fouls in 35 minutes.

Spurs' Devin Vassell, Lonnie Walker IV and Keita Bates-Diop all missed the game with an undisclosed illness. Popovich said it was not COVID-19 related. Poeltl picked up two fouls in the first 1 1/2 minutes and spent the remainder of the first quarter on the bench.

Knicks 131, Kings 115

In Sacramento, Calif., Julius Randle hit eight 3-pointers and scored 17 of his career-high 46 points in the third quarter as the New York Knicks rallied from a 20-point deficit and beat the Sacramento Kings 131-115 on Monday night.

One night after beating the Los Angeles Clippers in a win fueled mostly by New York's younger players, Randle rallied the Knicks with a phenomenal shooting display in the second half. He made 12 of 17 shots after halftime, going 7 for 11 from beyond the arc, and finished with 10 rebounds.

RJ Barrett had 29 points, eight rebounds and six assists to help the Knicks to their second consecutive win after seven straight losses. Immanuel Quickley added 27 points.

Domantas Sabonis had 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Kings before being ejected in the fourth quarter after receiving double technicals. De'Aaron Fox scored 24 points, and Harrison Barnes had 23.

Nuggets 131, Warriors 124

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had his second triple-double in two nights with 32 points, 15 rebounds and 13 assists, leading Denver over short-handed Golden State.

Jokic has recorded triple-doubles in 11 of his last 23 games, and leads the league with 18 this season. The reigning NBA MVP was coming off a 46-point, 12-rebound and 11-assist game in a 138-130 win over New Orleans on Sunday.

Monte Morris and Jeff Green added 18 points apiece for the Nuggets, who have won 11 of 13 and moved to 13 games over .500 for the first time this season.

The Warriors were playing with a depleted lineup after coach Steve Kerr announced Saturday that Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Andrew Wiggins would miss the game to rest. Andre Iguodala and Gary Payton Jr. also were unavailable due to injuries.

76ers 121, Bulls 106

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had 43 points and 14 rebounds, and Philadelphia beat Chicago in a showdown between two of the Eastern Conference's top teams headed in opposite directions.

James Harden added 16 points and 14 assists, and Tyrese Maxey added 17 points for the 76ers, who have won six of seven and stayed perfect with Harden in the lineup.

Embiid, the league's leading scorer, made 15 of 27 field goals and 12 of 16 free throws. The MVP frontrunner scored at least 40 points for the 10th time this season while upping his season average to 29.7 points per contest.

Zach Lavine scored 24 points for the Bulls and DeMar DeRozan added 23 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulls, who have lost five in a row.

Heat 123, Rockets 106

In Miami, Victor Oladipo scored 11 points in in his first game in nearly a year, Tyler Herro scored 21 of his 31 points in the second quarter and Miami beat Houston.

Oladipo, playing his first game since April 8 following a second surgery to repair a right quadriceps tendon, and made an immediate impact. He took a charge on his first defensive possession, hitting the deck without any signs of problems, then took another later in the game and had a dunk near the end of his 15-minute stint.

Jimmy Butler scored 21 points for Miami, which got Kyle Lowry back after a four-game absence for personal reasons. Bam Adebayo finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Heat.

Kevin Porter Jr. scored 22 points for Houston, which got 20 from Jalen Green, 16 from Josh Christopher and 14 from KJ Martin. Green was 4 for 4 from 3-point range in the game's first 5:40, then missed his final six tries from beyond the arc.

Mavericks 111, Jazz 103

In Dallas, Luka Doncic had 35 points and a season-high 16 rebounds, and Dallas held on against Utah a matchup of possible first-round playoff opponents.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 23 points and Dorian Finney-Smith added 21 for the Mavericks, who won their fifth consecutive game and pulled within a half-game of the Jazz for the fourth seed in the Western Conference.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 21 points and Rudy Gobert had 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Jazz, who led for just 13 seconds early in the last of their five-game road trip.

Timberwolves 124, Trail Blazers 81

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns had 27 points and 13 rebounds as Minnesota beat Portland by double digits for the second time in three days.

Malik Beasley added 19 points, and Naz Reid had 18 points and 11 rebounds off the bench for Minnesota.

Towns' effort came in less than three quarters, as he and most of Minnesota's starters stayed on the bench in the fourth with the game well in hand. Towns joined the home crowd in doing the wave from the bench as the Timberwolves fans reveled in their team's blowout victory. Wolves guard Patrick Beverley added to the fun by launching T-shirts into the crowd during the fourth quarter.

Pistons 113, Hawks 110, OT

In Detroit, Cade Cunningham had 28 points and 10 assists, lifting Detroit over Atlanta.

Jerami Grant scored 23 and reserve Marvin Bagley had 19 points for the Pistons, who have won a season-high three straight and six of their last eight games.

Atlanta's Bogdan Bogdanovic had 22 points before fouling out late in regulation and Trae Young had 14 points and 12 assists.

Pistons center Isaiah Stewart left the game midway through the second quarter after grabbing his right knee in pain, and didn't return.

Despite vitriol, MLB owners, locked-out players closing gap

AP

Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred speaks during a news conference after negotiations with the players' association toward a labor deal, Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter, Fla.

NEW YORK (AP)—For all the vitriol, Major League Baseball owners and locked-out players have closed the gap in recent weeks and are negotiating on similar frameworks for a new collective bargaining agreement.

With the lockout in its 96th day Monday, the sides remained apart to various degrees on three of the most significant items: the luxury tax, pre-arbitration bonus pool and minimum salary.

MLB told the union on Monday that Tuesday was the last possible day to reach an agreement that would allow a 162-game schedule, along with full salary and service time, a deadline first reported by The Athletic.

Openers on March 31 were among 91 games already canceled, and Commissioner Rob Manfred appeared to be on the verge of calling off more.

"This is a horrible, horrible situation. Everyone on the Yankees, everyone in Major League Baseball shares the blame, players, owners, executives for where we are. It's a really bad look, especially (with) what's going on in the world," Yankees president Randy Levine said Monday on the team's YES Network. "We all look pretty bad. ... It's embarrassing to be where we are."

In an industry where payrolls project to total in the $4 billion range, the percentage differences on some items do not appear to be insurmountable.

The sides appear to be about $15 million apart on the minimum salary for this year, $20 million for 2023 and $25 million for 2024, each less than 1% of payrolls. This assumes about half of players in the major leagues at any given time are impacted by the minimum.

Differences are greater in the final two seasons, when the union is asking for cost-of-living increases.

The gap in the new pre-arbitration bonus pool is $50 million this year, rising to $70 million by 2026. But, again, the percentage of overall payroll affected by this item is relatively small, under 2%.

And then there is the most divisive issue, luxury tax thresholds. The sides are $18 million apart this year, a difference rising to $33 million by 2026.

How much is each additional $1 million in threshold likely to produce in spending on players? There's no exact formula.

In 18 seasons of the luxury tax, there have been three seasons in which one team paid tax, 10 with two, two with three and one each with four, five and six.

Including nonmonetary penalties for the pandemic-shortened 2020 season when the tax was suspended, there were 15 instances each of exceeding the first threshold during both the 2012-16 and 2017-21 agreements, up from nine in 2007-11 and eight in 2003-06.

A maximum estimate on luxury tax impact would be a five-times multiplier, and history shows the actual impact is likely to be less.

With much of this year's free-agent class already signed, there are few stars other than Freddie Freeman and Carlos Correa who could drive a team above the threshold.

MLB is concerned a higher 2022 figure would lead to bigger threshold numbers in later years, causing greater payroll disparity and making it more costly for mid- and small-market clubs to retain their stars.

This negotiation is more than those prominent items, and mindset is as important as current positions.

The union thinks it has moved toward clubs by retreating from proposals for more liberalized free agency and the restoration of salary arbitration for eligibility for all players with at least two years of major league service. Players also say they would agree to uniform and helmet advertisements, to a speedier process for a pitch clock and shift limits and to expand the playoffs, though the union prefers 12 teams and MLB would like 14.

MLB thinks it has increased money going to players by expanding the designated hitter to the National League, dropping direct free agent compensation, increasing slot values for amateur draft picks, boosting the postseason pool and improving the pension plan.

Clubs believe they have addressed players' concern that young stars have not been given appropriate salaries, and the union thinks the teams have not gone far enough. Teams also have backed off their proposals for higher penalties for teams over the tax threshold.

Both sides are close to an agreement on an amateur draft lottery aimed to incentive competition. Management has offered the top five selections and players asked for the top six, with some differences on limitations for teams participation in consecutive years.

Labor relations experts following MLB negotiations from afar

CHICAGO (AP)—Allen Sanderson grew up in Idaho. He played high school baseball and worked for a minor league team in Twin Falls, providing a ride home for Dick Allen long before he became a feared slugger with the Philadelphia Phillies.

That's part of how Sanderson sees baseball's labor strife, as a longtime baseball fan. But he also follows along from a different perspective, one of a sports economist at the University of Chicago.

"What is the right division between the owners and the player? How much should the players get? How much should the owners get?" Sanderson said. "There's no right answer to that question. There may well be to you making french fries at McDonald's or something like that. There probably is a right answer to that question about what's a reasonable amount in a competitive marketplace for you to earn.

"But once you're in the sports world or the entertainment world, something like that, you know just all bets are off. It's largely a function of how well can I negotiate our side in this."

That last part isn't going very well at the moment, not for Major League Baseball or its locked-out players.

Baseball's ninth work stoppage reached 96 days on Monday, and MLB told the union that Tuesday was the last possible day to reach an agreement that would allow a 162-game schedule, along with full salary and service time.

It is the sport's first labor conflict to cause games to be canceled since the 1994-95 strike wiped out the World Series for the first time in 90 years. Negotiations broke off last week after nine days of talks in Jupiter, Florida, and Commissioner Rob Manfred canceled the first two series of the season for each team, a total of 91 games.

While the sides try to chart a path forward, hoping to get baseball back on the field, some experts in labor relations and sports business are watching the dispute from an academic viewpoint.

"I look at it through the collective bargaining lens," said Art Wheaton, the director of labor studies in the Buffalo Co-Lab for Cornell University's industrial and labor relations school.

"The lens, I do a lot of training for unions about negotiations and how to bargain, so anything when it comes to contract time I keep an eye on."

Manfred, Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem and NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman each graduated from the ILR School at Cornell.

When Wheaton looks at the baseball talks, he sees a process bogged down by a complicated mix of audiences that includes big- and small-market owners, players with a wide range of salaries and agents attempting to indirectly influence the negotiations from afar.

"If you can make it collective bargaining where everybody on the company side and everybody on the union side are trying to solve the difference, that's a whole lot better than having all of the different owners pushing their own buttons and all of the different agents also trying to change it," said Wheaton, a Cincinnati Reds and Boston Red Sox fan who follows baseball more closely when it gets to the postseason.

"Collective means working together, and that I think is what has broken down here."

Wheaton also took issue with what he called "deadline bargaining," waiting until the last minute for substantive negotiations in hopes of creating big movement. After Major League Baseball locked out its players in early December, the sides didn't meet again until Jan. 13.

"It's not an unusual tactic. I just don't find it a very helpful tactic," he said. "You add a lot of extra stress and high risk, which some people like because it forces the other side to make a decision. But it's not always the best way to make a good, rational economic decision by waiting until the last minute, throwing all these numbers around."

The long-term effect of the lockout remains to be seen. It took baseball years to recover the last time it canceled games because of a labor action, and Manfred is likely to wipe out more of the schedule if there isn't a resolution soon.

"I think that what baseball is doing is turning off the casual fan and turning off the young fan," said Stephen Greyser, a marketing and communications professor in the Harvard Business School and a longtime Red Sox season-ticket holder.

"The reality is those people are not going to be getting any more interested in going to games or watching games on TV by not having games at all and not having the season start."

TSL Foundation donates $3K to NMC

As part of its mission to support workforce development in the CNMI, the Tan Siu Lin Foundation recently donated $3,000 to the Northern Marianas College.

"We support the college in its efforts to enhance its programs and services for students who are working to improve their lives through education," Tan Holdings CEO Jerry Tan said. "We wish the best of luck also to all the players in this year's tournament."

The donation from the TSL Foundation, the charitable arm of Tan Holdings, was made in support of NMC Foundation's 17th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Tournament, which will be held on March 19.

"The success of the NMC's golf tournaments, including this year's, is largely due to the generosity and involvement of organizations like Tan Siu Lin Foundation and the Tan Holdings," said NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD. "We are grateful for the company's involvement again this year."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College students receive the ceremonial check donation from Tan Siu Lin Foundation executive Merlie Tolentino, fifth left, for the NMC Foundation's 17th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Tournament in a brief presentation recently at the Tan Holdings conference room. Joining the ceremony are NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, EdD, second left, and other Tan Siu Lin Foundation and NMC representatives.

NMC's Golf Open will be held on the east course of the LaoLao Bay Golf and Resort. Showtime is at 6am, and the shotgun start will be at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

First place winners in the men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior, and Ladies Flights (low gross and low net) will each receive $500, while $300 and $200 will go to the second and third place finishers, respectively. Hole-in-one prizes also include a brand new 2022 Civic Sport Hatchback from Joeten Motors, a brand new 2022 Hyundai Kona N-Line from Triple J Motors, a brand new 2022 Toyota Camry from Atkins Kroll Saipan, and $5,000 from McDonald's.

The tournament will also feature many other items such as raffle prizes like smartphones, hotel stays, meals, and much more.

Registration for this year's tournament is closed as the maximum number of players has been reached. Those who have not registered to play, but would like to be placed on a player wait list can contact 237-6780.

The college is asking companies, organizations, or individuals who are interested in sponsoring holes and/or for any in-kind or cash donation to help support the CNMI's post-secondary institution. For more information on how to become a sponsor, call 237-6780 or email carla.sablan@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

SOUTHERN

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tales' goal.

Costales posted the first goal for TanHoldings-1 (seventh minute) and her second and last in the 27th gave their team the insurance. Elissa Calayag and Jade made the two other goals for TanHoldings-1, while Alejandra Manabat made twin goals for Kanoa-2 and Maria Kaiyan Haberman added one.

GIRLS U16 DIVISION
Southern United 6, MP United 0

Southern United was also triumphant in the girls U16 8v8 opener after shutting down MP United.

Pia Ngewakl tallied three goals for Southern United, while Rizza Relucio contributed a pair, and Summer Manahane posted one.

Kanoa 8, Paire 1

Kanoa cruised to victory, too in its first game of the season.

Audrey Castro and Kaithlynn Chavez teamed up in the win with the former scoring four goals and the latter chipping in three. Ye Lynn Ha added one goal in the lopsided victory, while Paire's lone goal was courtesy of Beatrice Gross.

BLUE

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mos hitting a couple of triples. Esdrelon and Diaz, however, had a couple of hits from the land of plenty themselves as Blue Haus entered the fourth and final quarter ahead by 5 points, 58-53.

The close game turned into a runaway win for Blue Haus as Eagle Construction played horrible defense in the first couple of minutes of the payoff period. Burly John Santos joined Esdrelon and Diaz's 3-point party to break the game wide open. The trio combined for 22 of the team's 29 points in the final 10 minutes to lift Blue Haus to the lopsided win.

Esdrelon led all scorers with 22 points, while Diaz and Santos tossed in 18 points and 16 points, respectively. Eagle Construction was led by the 16 points of Santos with Pineda adding 13 points.

In the first game, James Abuy rediscovered his shooting touch, firing 22 points in NAPA Auto's 97-82 win over Marianas Dental Clinic. MDC actually started like a house in fire and led 23-16 after the first quarter. NAPA Auto, however, settled down and dominated the final three quarters to take the victory with plenty to spare. Fradel Sedillo paced MDC with 19 points. In the second game, DECM had a light workout in beating Magalahi Eagles, 91-55.

First Game

NAPA Auto 97 – Abuy 22, Tabora 19, De Guzman 18, Ebuen 10 ,Tobias 7, Montano 7, Zapata 7, Guinto 4, Bartolo 2.

MDC 82 – Sedillo 19, Catalla 18, Villarin 12, Manipon 10, Galbone 8, Saplan 6, Echavez 3, Dela Torre 2, Lumibao 2, Sangayo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-23, 47-40, 72-57, 97-82.

Second Game

DECM 91 – Moises 15, Tabora 13, Pangelinan 11, Tagle 11, Joson 11, Galulu 8, Salazar 7, Bansil 4, Gatdula 4, Viola 4.

Magalahi Eagles 55 – Cortez 23, Odicta 17, Elayda 6, Regaton 4, Brillo 3, De Ramos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 31-8, 52-26, 61-38, 91-55.

Third Game

Blue Haus 87 – Esdrelon 22, Diaz 18, J. Santos 16, Guiab 12, E. Santos 5, Elchico 4, Peredo 3, Berline 6, Jumaquio 2.

Eagle Construction 70 – Santos 16, Pineda 13, Ocampo 8, Umali 6, Alegre 6, Ramos 6, L. Itaas 5, Surima 4, Sampang 4, Garcia 2, J. Itaas 1.

Scoring by quarters: 18-17, 36-32, 58-53, 87-70.

PACIFIC

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Tennis Federation website, Clement Mainguy of Vanuatu lost the first singles match against the veteran Jurgen Zoop, 6-2, 6-4, in 1 hour and 15 minutes. Mainguy dropped serve in the third and seventh games of the first set and the fifth game of the second set.

In the second singles, the CNMI's very own Colin Sinclair lost to Mark Lajal, 7-5,7-5, in 1 hour and 34 minutes. Sinclair started the match well breaking Lajal in the opening game, but then had his serve broken in the fourth game and the set-deciding 12th game to lose the set 7-5. The second set was a similar pattern with Sinclair breaking serve in the third game to lead 2-1, but then lost his serve in the eighth and the match-deciding 12th game to lose the match, 7-5, 7-5.

Facing a must-win on Saturday, Sinclair teamed up with longtime partner Brett Baudinet of the Cook Islands, but their familiarity with each other proved no match against Zoop and Kenneth Raisma and they lost, 6-4, 6-2, in 1 hour and 4 minutes. In the dead rubber singles, Matthew Stubbing of Papua New Guinea was beaten, 6-2, 6-2, by Vladimir Ivanov.

Before their tie against Estonia, Sinclair said the team was very optimistic that they will be able to give the favored home team a run for their money.

"They have a very strong team. Their No. 1 player (Zoop) used to be No. 70 in the world 10 years ago, but he retired two of three years ago and hasn't been playing full time. Hopefully he's a little rusty and will have a better chance against him. They have a good team, but I think we're very capable of winning this week which is very exciting."

Sinclair, who is ranked No. 667 in singles in the ATP, said before facing Estonia, Pacific Oceania was doing very well in preparing for the tie.

"Everyone is playing well and I played a tournament with Brett last week in Tunisia and we worked on our doubles combinations. It's going to be a long three days. I think I'm going to play three matches in two days. But I'm very excited. We have the biggest team we've ever had. We're getting a lot of good time on court. Just getting used to the indoor hardcourt conditions because we're from the islands no one plays in indoor courts so much because we don't have those facilities The courts are pretty quick but I think that works for our team. We're a team that plays aggressive."

He added that the tie in Estonia is historic since it's the first time Pacific Oceania has ever played outside of the Asia-Pacific region.

"This was the first time Pacific Oceania has made it outside of the Asia-Pacific region because of the change in Davis Cup about 4-5 years ago. Before Group II was just for the Asia-Pacific region and now it's the whole world. This was our first chance to get out of the Asia-Pacific region and play somewhere completely different. We're coming here to negative temperatures and kind of one of the more remote northern countries in Europe and I'm excited for the team for this new experience. Thank you Plexipave with all the cold-weather gear that we needed," he said.

The Pacific Oceania team captain is Aymeric Mara of Vanuatu and the manager is Richard Breen.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	40	24	.625	—
Boston	39	27	.591	2
Toronto	34	30	.531	6
Brooklyn	32	33	.492	8½
New York	27	38	.415	13½

Southeast Division

Miami	44	22	.667	—
Charlotte	32	33	.492	11½
Atlanta	31	33	.484	12
Washington	29	34	.460	13½
Orlando	16	49	.246	27½

Central Division

Milwaukee	40	25	.615	—
Chicago	39	26	.600	1
Cleveland	37	27	.578	2½
Indiana	22	44	.333	18½
Detroit	18	47	.277	22

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	44	22	.667	—
Dallas	40	25	.615	3½
New Orleans	27	37	.422	16
San Antonio	25	40	.385	18½
Houston	16	49	.246	27½

Northwest Division

Utah	40	24	.625	—
Denver	39	26	.600	1½
Minnesota	37	29	.561	4
Portland	25	39	.391	15
Oklahoma City	20	44	.313	20

Pacific Division

Phoenix	51	13	.797	—
Golden State	43	22	.662	8½
L.A. Clippers	34	32	.515	18
L.A. Lakers	28	36	.438	23
Sacramento	24	43	.358	28½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spurs' Popovich ties Nelson for NBA career wins record

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Southern United wins opener vs Paire

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Southern United Football Club opened its campaign in the 2022 NMIFA Youth Spring League with a 7-5 victory over Paire Football Club in the girls U13 3v3 division match last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Rosie Saralu led Southern United's opening week win after firing five goals, including four straight. Saralu got her first goal right in the second minute or less than a minute after Briennie Echalico lit up the board, while the former's next three came in the third, 21st, and 24th before she closed out in the 29th. Echalico tallied Southern United's penultimate goal, while Justidy Mizutani delivered a hat-trick for Paire. Caurie Staffler and Beatrice Gross made the two other goals for Paire.

Matansa 4, MP United 0

Alyssa Borlongan and Hailey Benavente towed Matansa past MP United.

Benavente and Borlongan scored two goals apiece for the winning team with the former earning her pair in the sixth and 17th minute and the latter in the 11th and 23rd.

Kanoa-1 5, TanHoldings-2 3

Ye Lynn Ha powered Kanoa-1 to a season-opening win over TanHoldings-2

Ha fired four goals, scoring in the second, 12th, 22nd, and 28th minute. Faith Arriola logged the other goal for Kanoa-1, while TanHoldings-2 drew two goals from Alyza De Belen and one from Orica George.

TanHoldings-1 4, Kanoa-2 3

TanHoldings-1 nipped Kanoa-2, courtesy of Kaye Anne Cos-

See SOUTHERN on Page 19

MICHAELA PANGANIBAN
Southern United Football Club's Kalia Mendiola, left, and Paire Football Club's Beatrice Gross battle for possession during the girls U13 3v3 division match in the opening week of the 2022 NMIFA Youth Spring League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Blue Haus still perfect in masters play

» NAPA Auto turns back MDC

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Blue Haus defeated a game Eagle Construction team, 84-70, in their masters division game of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

Seeing action in the final game of the weekend's scheduled triple-header, Blue Haus was in a dogfight against Eagle Construction with the latter even leading several times in the first half as high-flying Raymond Santos kept puncturing Blue Haus' defenses down low.

Blue Haus would take the first quarter, 18-17, and only led by 4 points, 36-32, at the half of the low-scoring contest with veteran playmaker Elmer Esdrelon and swingman Tony Diaz combining for 14 markers.

Eagle Construction continued to shadow Blue Haus in the third quarter with ageless point guard Elmer Pineda running the show and 3-point sniper Luis Ra-

See BLUE on Page 19

MARK RABAGO
Blue Haus' Bruce Berline battles Eagle Construction's Ting Alegre in their masters division game of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

Pacific Oceania loses to Estonia in return to Group 2

OTF
Pacific Oceania team captain Aymeric Mara of Vanuatu huddles with his doubles team of Colin Sinclair of the CNMI and Brett Baudinet of the Cook Islands during their Group II Davis Cup match against Estonia last Saturday weekend at the Forus Tenniscentre in Tallinn, Estonia.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Pacific Oceania was swept by Estonia in the Islanders' return to Group II of Davis Cup competition last weekend at the Forus Tenniscentre in Tallinn, Estonia.

The No. 6 seeds banked on the veteran savvy of their ATP-ranked players to win the first two singles matches on Friday before securing the win by taking the doubles match last Saturday. They made it 4-0 by also winning the dead rubber singles later that day.

According to the Oceania

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